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## Torn over Lebanon, two tales

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## Palestinian Christians feel the heat

The Magazine



## Harrison Ford, a president under fire

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# Israeli firms sold arms to Iran till '93

By STEVE RODAN

Israeli companies, with Defense Ministry approval, sold military equipment to Iran during the 1980s and early '90s, until they were stopped by US opposition in 1993, court records and defense executives say.

An investigation to be published in next Friday's *Jerusalem Post Magazine* has found that the sales began soon after the Iran-Iraq War started in 1980 and continued through the early 1990s, when the

Clinton administration began to enforce the policy of dual containment against Iran and Iraq.

"Until 1988, Israel was liberal in arms sales to Iran," said former Soltam director Avraham Bar-El. "There was the Iran-Iraq War and our interest was that this war would last forever. Israeli companies were willing to sell virtually anything."

The sales to Iran continued in 1990. Defense industry sources say a variety of Israeli firms dealt with Tehran, but one of the most active was Nahum Manbar, now on

trial in Tel Aviv District Court on charges of aiding the enemy in time of war.

Court records of the Manbar trial and of a civil suit show that the Defense Ministry issued permits for at least one major defense deal with Iran in 1990, in which Iran wanted to buy \$50 million worth of high-technology equipment to detect chemical weapons from long range. The equipment, called Laser Radar System, was designed by Elbit Computers Ltd.

"The beginning of the supply was to

have been within a few months after approval of the samples," Elbit said in reply to a suit Manbar brought against the company in 1992 in Tel Aviv District Court. "The plaintiff [Manbar] wanted three months. On the basis of this, the defendant turned to the Defense Ministry to obtain the required permits to conduct negotiations, and such a permit was given."

An order of the equipment made by the Iranians listed the following items: the LRS, Chase, Cadet, and Cat. All of these

are instruments for detecting chemical weapons.

"Of course, we will try to test the quality of these equipments and if it is approved, we will put much larger order for each of the above equipments before the end of this year," wrote S.A. Okhovat, an official of the Iranian Defense Ministry's National Defense Industries Organization.

The agreement broke down when Elbit could not supply the LRS and agreed to sell only the Chase and Cadet. The

Iranians said they were primarily interested in the LRS, with much greater detection ability. In its defense, Elbit argued that it told Manbar that the LRS was still under development. The suit was eventually settled out of court.

The Manbar-Elbit suit detailed how the deal would be executed. The equipment would be purchased by Manbar's Mana International Investment Inc., which had an office in Warsaw.

See IRAN, Page 12

## PM, Albright discuss missile threat

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Russia's reportedly massive supply of ballistic missile technology, components, and experts to Iran prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to tell US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday that this endangers Israel and requires immediate action to stop it.

Describing the Iranian missile buildup as a threat to the US and Israel, as well as a danger to world peace, Netanyahu said he and Albright talked about ways to avert it.

Iran is "seeking also to develop nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said.

He spoke at a joint news conference at the end of a meeting with Albright, their second since she arrived on Wednesday.

Albright also referred to Iran's missile buildup, but both she and Netanyahu refrained from specifically mentioning Russia in this context.

Nonetheless, Netanyahu instructed National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to suspend negotiations with Russia on the purchase of natural gas.

"The US has been concerned about Iran's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and their general behavior," Albright said. "We had a discussion about the importance of what can be done to make sure that this region, which is so important to Israelis and also to us, not be exposed to greater danger."

However, Israeli political quarters accused the Kremlin of "a controlled, approved, and directed operation, sponsored by the Russian government" which could turn Iran into a regional superpower capable of destroying the peace process.

See MISSILE, Page 12

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### Deadly crash

Officers inspect the wreckage of an IDF troop transport which overturned on Har Dov yesterday, killing two soldiers and injuring seven. See report, Page 2.

(Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

## Bnei Brak man feared kidnapped by terrorists

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

A massive search for 63-year-old businessman Ya'acov Schwartz continues today, amid fears that he was kidnapped by terrorists and is being held in Palestinian-controlled territory.

Schwartz, of Bnei Brak, a Holocaust survivor, was last seen in Ashkelon on Wednesday afternoon. His abandoned car was found parked at the entrance of Netiv Ha'asara, north of the Erez checkpoint, later that day.

Yesterday, some 800 policemen, border policemen, IDF troops and volunteers searched fields, wadis, and the coastline from Ashdod and Ashkelon toward Erez. Security forces notified their Palestinian counterparts, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to request Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser

Arafat's assistance during her meeting with him in Ramallah.

PA official Sufian Abu Zaid said that if it is determined that Schwartz is being held in the Gaza Strip, no effort would be spared to ensure his safety. "I am 100 percent sure that Palestinian security forces will do everything to return him to his family," he said.

Inside Schwartz's car, police found an IDF shirt and on the ground nearby his wallet, with his identity card missing. His kippa was found several meters from the car, but police said there were no signs of a struggle.

Searchers found three packets of the medication which Schwartz took daily, lying close to the Ashkelon-Eilat pipeline south of Ashkelon.

Police are also investigating the possibility that Schwartz's kidnappers, seeking to mislead the security forces, parked his car at

Erez and are holding him somewhere in the West Bank. Negev police spokesman Shalom Ben-Hamo said last night that other possibilities have not been ruled out.

"We haven't ruled out anything and are questioning family members to determine the reason for his disappearance," he said.

In an emotional appeal yesterday, Schwartz's wife, Elisheva, asked the government, Arafat, and the public to help find her husband. "He is a man who instilled security and the love of life in everyone around him. In hard times he always displayed optimism."

She added that her husband was wearing a striped blue shirt, dark trousers, sport shoes, and a kippa.

See KIDNAPED, Page 21

## Diplomatic focus shifts to Syria

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A new diplomatic channel to Syria opens today, when US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright shifts the focus of her peacemaking efforts from Jerusalem to Damascus.

She will be armed with new Israeli ideas about getting the bilateral peace process back on track and reinforced by discreet, but unconfirmed preliminary contacts believed to have been made by the two countries.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mentioned Israel's interest in resuming direct negotiations with Syria at yesterday afternoon's meeting with Albright, but they preferred to go into detail at a working dinner in the evening.

The flurry of optimism regarding an Israeli-Syrian breakthrough to the negotiating table contrasted with an upsurge of controversy on the Palestinian issue in which Albright herself was the target.

Her call upon Israel to refrain

from "what Palestinians perceive as the provocative expansion of settlements" was vigorously rejected by David Bar-Ilan, Netanyahu's director of communications.

**Israel rejects French criticism, Page 2**  
**MIA families ask Albright for help, Page 3**

"To freeze the construction of settlements is like freezing the life within them," Bar-Ilan said.

He contended that as long as the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip exist, they must develop and the construction is meant for the needs of the inhabitants. "Besides," he went on, "a building freeze is not included in the Oslo Accords."

Netanyahu refused to elaborate on the emerging options for

resumption of a dialogue with Syria when pressed on the subject, other than to confirm that Syria's removal from the "inner circle of hostility" might also detach Damascus from its principal ally, Iran, which he regards as Israel's most dangerous enemy.

Foreign Minister David Levy bolstered the new optimism about a deal with Syria being feasible when he remarked, "Oslo isn't dead and Syria isn't dead!"

Levy and Albright are to meet later this month at the UN General Assembly session in New York.

Netanyahu's uncharacteristic silence on Syria suggested that a new diplomatic initiative may be in the making, and that excessive rhetoric might kill it.

Netanyahu also announced an easing of the closure. Bethlehem is to be reopened to Christian pilgrims this morning, but the city's residents will not be allowed to enter Israel.

See SYRIA, Page 21

## Albright urges Arafat: Be relentless against terror

By ELI WOHLGELER

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright again hammered home the theme of security in her meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah yesterday, saying that the PA cannot fight terrorism "only when it is convenient to do so."

Speaking at a joint news conference with Arafat following the meeting, Albright said that action against terror "must be comprehensive, relentless, and sustained. It cannot be pursued only when it is convenient to do so. As Chairman Arafat knows, fighting terror is a 24-hour-a-day job."

Practically conceding that the peace process is dormant, if not dead, Albright said, "I think that we have a long way to go. So far we have managed to get agreement on the fact that terrorists are terrible, but we have not, I think, yet been able to see what the best methods are to get the peace process back on track."

At the press conference, held at the PA Ministry of Education building, a reporter asked whether

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, "leaving the issue of the bombings aside," should freeze settlements over the Green Line.

"First, it's a little hard to say 'leaving terrorism aside,'" Albright responded, "because I think that is the basic problem here. The importance of dealing with the terrorist issue is prime, and we will continue to press on that."

Arafat said that the Palestinians and Israelis "are partners in the peace process, and we have to bear our mutual responsibilities in accordance with the agreements

that have been signed; and I reiterate that the Palestinian National Authority will bear all its responsibilities and I hope that the Israeli government will do the same."

Albright said it was clear to her after their three-hour meeting that Arafat understands how damaging to the peace process the terrorists are, and that he believes it is the Palestinian people who suffer because terrorism has not been expunged and the peace process is not going forward.

See ARAFAT, Page 21

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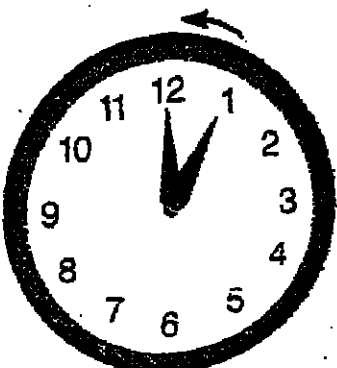
## Don't forget: Turn back the clocks

Daylight saving time ends tomorrow night at midnight, after being in force for 177 days. Clocks should be turned back one hour.

Interior Minister Eli Shalev has announced he is establishing a committee, headed by Ya'acov Markowitz, to examine the whole issue of daylight saving time and make recommendations on the optimum period for the clock to be turned ahead.

Shalev said he wants to set the period of daylight saving time for several years, so that the matter does not have to be debated each year.

Jerusalem Post Staff



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## NEWS

in brief

## IDF kills two gunmen in Lebanon

An IDF force opened fire on a terrorist squad in the central sector of the security zone on Wednesday night, killing at least two gunmen, the IDF Spokesman said yesterday. It said that, after the incident, soldiers found a large cache of arms, apparently belonging to an elite Hizbullah unit.

Jerusalem Post Staff

## Report calls for Edelstein's dismissal

Yisrael Ba'aliya's internal audit committee yesterday presented party officials with a report calling for the removal of Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, Army Radio said. The committee found that Edelstein had not fulfilled his obligations to the party with regard to new immigrants.

Edelstein responded that during his tenure, there has been a sharp increase in the number of apartments allocated to the poor and in cooperation with immigrant and volunteer groups. "We haven't solved all the immigrants' problems, but it's not possible to do so in a year or even in a more extended period," he said.

Itim

## Decision on Ben-Ari remand next week

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court is to rule next Thursday on whether Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) will be remanded until the end of his trial. Ben-Ari was charged Sunday with 14 counts of fraud, blackmail, and attempted blackmail.

During a seven-hour hearing before Judge Elihu Ben-Zimra, prosecutors argued that the amounts involved in the crimes are unprecedented, and that Ben-Ari is likely to flee the country if released. Ben-Ari's lawyer, Yoram Shefiel, countered that the trial could last years, and that in any case there is no precedent for remanding a white-collar criminal until the end of his trial.

Itim

## Double murder said to be 'family honor' killing

Police believe that the double murder in the South of a husband and wife, whose bodies were found yesterday afternoon, was a "family honor" murder. The body of Yussuf Alkarini, 34, of Rahat, was found at the entrance to the Beduin village of Hura. His wife, Yusra, 23, was found dead in an orchard near Kiryat Gat.

Police said that Alkarini was a drug addict who allowed his wife to go out with other men. Police have arrested three suspects, but said that the killers themselves are still at large.

Itim

## Har-Shefi trial opens

The trial of Margalit Har-Shefi, 22, of Beit El, opened yesterday in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. She is accused of knowing that Yigal Amir planned to assassinate prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and doing nothing to stop him and of providing him with assistance. The court, according to a prosecution request, ruled that General Security Service agents would testify behind closed doors.

Itim

## Two killed, seven hurt in IDF crash

By HERB KENON

An army transport truck apparently struck an outcropping on a hairpin mountain curve, then ran off the road and overturned yesterday, killing two soldiers and injuring seven, one of them seriously.

The IDF Spokesman identified the dead as the driver, Staff-Sgt. Michael Kodranski, 20, from Beit Shmesh, and his female passenger in the cab, Sgt. Einav Madhara, 19, from Kiryat Ekron.

The injured were flown to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. In addition to the seriously injured soldier, three others suffered moderate injuries and three were lightly hurt.

The accident took place at about 8 a.m. on Har Dov near Kibbutz Dafna on the north-

ern border, not far from where two helicopters collided in February in an accident that killed 73 soldiers.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine ordered an investigation of the accident.

According to preliminary reports, the truck, which was carrying soldiers from outposts near the Lebanese border, glanced off the rock on one of the mountain's hairpin turns. Despite the driver's efforts to slow it by downshifting, he lost control and the truck crashed through a barrier and flipped over.

According to the IDF Spokesman, 16 soldiers have been killed in road accidents since the beginning of the year, compared to 10 in all of 1996. Another 20 soldiers have been killed in road accidents that took place

while they were on leave, compared to 31 soldiers killed while off duty in 1996.

Yesterday's accident is likely to give additional ammunition to a group of families of soldiers killed in IDF accidents over the past decade. "The families are calling for a new policy whereby accidents will be investigated independently, and not by the IDF."

"If the investigations are done independently, there will not be a whitewash," said Nissim Isha, whose son was killed by friendly fire near Jenin in 1992. A group of parents took out full-page advertisements in the Hebrew press last week following the deaths of five soldiers in the Lebanon brushfire incident, calling for independent investigations.

"There is no way to completely prevent all accidents in the army," Isha said. "But

even if you lessen them by 2 or 3 percent a year, you are saving lives." Isha said high-ranking officers know that if their charges are killed in an accident, they will not be held responsible. "But if they know that if something happens, they will be held responsible, then maybe they will do things a little differently," he said.

Shula Yehoshua, whose son was killed in a IDF truck accident five years ago, was more blunt. "If the officers know they will be held responsible, they will be more careful."

In late July, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak convened a special inquiry into a rash of accidents that claimed the lives of six soldiers in one week. As a result of this inquiry, all IDF units were directed last month to emphasize road-safety programs.

## Police checking threats to settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

Police are investigating a series of threatening letters sent to the offices of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and to Amman, the council's settlement division.

According to council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar, the letters have been sent on a weekly basis for some months. Tayar said the letters are handwritten, sometimes in German and sometimes in Hebrew. All the letters have been posted from the Tel Aviv-Jaffa area.

"They are written on spiral notebook paper and usually consist of a few words or a couple of sentences," she said.

The letters' contents, said Tayar, have become more vicious and council members decided to ask the police to investigate. Some of the letters compared the settlement leaders to insects that needed to be exterminated, she said.

"It is reminiscent of the period following the assassination of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Then we received many threatening telephone calls and letters," Tayar said.

Tayar said the council's secretary-general, Aharon Domb, filed a complaint with police on Tuesday.



Welcome to Ramallah

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat shake hands on the steps of the PA Education Ministry building in Ramallah before their meeting yesterday.

(Reuters)

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## Israel to formally protest French FM's remarks

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday rejected French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine's criticism of Israeli policy, saying it was "baseless." He indicated that a formal protest will be submitted to the Quai d'Orsay.

Levy was referring to Vedrine's remarks that the Israeli government is to blame for undermining Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and destroying the PA as its "essential and irreplaceable partner in the peace process."

Levy said that "adoption of such a one-sided position by a friendly country is unacceptable."

Vedrine told a Socialist Party conference that "the peace process is broken," and that a growing number of European countries

agree with France that Israel is to blame.

"This is a catastrophic policy, it seems to me, both in the short term and in the future, for the Palestinians, for Israel, and the rest of the world," he said.

"The French foreign minister's words and their timing raise doubts about their purpose," Levy said.

"At the very moment that the US secretary of state is in the region and working, together with the Israeli government and the PA, to renew security cooperation and to put the peace process back on track, M. Vedrine determines that the peace process is dead. This is an unfortunate conclusion to which even Arafat is not a partner."

Vedrine took office in June in a Socialist-led government and his remarks are likely to cement Israel's impression that Paris is too pro-Arab to play a larger role in reviving the peace process.

## Avineri: Weizman tried a 'presidential coup'

By SARAH HONIG

President Ezer Weizman had attempted a presidential coup, Hebrew University political science Prof. Shlomo Avineri said yesterday.

Avineri, a Laborite and former Foreign Ministry director-general, took Weizman to task for his comments to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Wednesday, in which he called on her to exert pressure on Israel.

Avineri told Israel Radio that Weizman "did something which exceeded the bounds of his office. I don't want to resort to his vocabulary, but he sought to carry out a presidential coup, to assume for himself authority which his office does not confer upon him. The law does not allow him such things because he is not empowered to conduct negotiations on behalf of the state."

According to Avineri, the president "is also not obliged to express

his opinion on every single issue. I'd rather not supply examples because some of them will certainly not enhance his prestige."

"We are a small country and whenever an issue arises - like homosexuality - the media rushes to the president and there is never any doubt that he will shoot from the hip and have something to say that will make major headlines. The president ought to restrain himself. The media need not be restrained. That is not its role. But given the president's role as the representative of national consensus, he should restrain himself."

But Weizman quickly enough made it clear that he has no intention of quitting, and that when his five-year term is up in eight months, he will seek another.

That dashed Likud hopes he could be replaced. Prior to that, anonymous sources in the party started rumors to the effect that the party would field a candidate against him, like former Supreme

Court president Meir Shamgar, Foreign Minister David Levy, or National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Shamgar let be known long ago that he would stand for the post only if he were a consensus candidate; Sharon ignored the talk; and Levy took umbrage, interpreting the rumors as part of a sinister plot to kick him upstairs.

But a senior Likud source said last night that if Weizman runs again, no one will challenge him. The source also noted that the Likud had never gotten its presidential candidate elected in the Knesset.

Arye Shumer, the director of the President's Office, said yesterday that a full transcript of Weizman's conversation with Albright was to be dispatched last night to the Prime Minister's Office, and it was up to the latter to decide whether to publish it.

Weizman will meet early next week with Netanyahu, Israel Radio said last night.

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94425, 84218, 61754, 95835, 15684, 39514, 32509, 22798 and 48158 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 094, 027, 490 and 753 won NIS 100.

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Police checking threats settlers

By MARGOT DUBNOV

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## MIA families ask Albright for help

By ELLI WOHLGELERINTER

In a meeting yesterday with the families of soldiers who went missing 15 years ago in the Lebanon War, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright pledged to try to obtain information about their sons.

On the first stop of her second day here, Albright said she could make no promises, but would "do what she could" during her Middle East trip, according to Yona Baumeil, the father of Zachary Baumeil, who has been missing along with Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, since the June 11, 1982, battle at Sultan Yacoub.

"We impressed upon her the importance of solving the long-term problem and the importance of this issue to the Israeli public at large," said Baumeil. The Baumeils hold US citizenship.

Though chances of finding the missing soldiers are slim, the families still remain hopeful.

"It's like having a tiger by the tail: You can't hold on, you can't let go," Baumeil said.

Albright's day continued with a breakfast meeting with Leah Rabin, widow of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at his grave.

Rabin, urging Albright to revive the hope for Middle East peace, presented her with a gold dove-of-peace pin, which Albright put on.

At the grave, Albright laid a wreath of yellow and red flowers and, following Jewish custom, placed a stone on Rabin's head-

### Albright refuses Pollard petition

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright refused yesterday to accept a delegation of MKs that wished to present her with a petition, signed by 40 MKs, asking for clemency for convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

Labor MK Ophir Pines, who initiated the petition, said that the US had suggested, through the Foreign Ministry, that US Ambassador Martin Indyk would accept the petition, but Pines said this had been a stalling tactic and that Indyk never contacted the MKs.

Pines said that by refusing to receive them Albright had demonstrated contempt for the Knesset.

"It is time for the US government to stop making an example out of Pollard and allow him to immigrate here," Pines said. (Jm)

Arafat to stop the terror without there being forward movement toward peace is impossible," she said. "What are we expecting of him?"

Rabin noted that before the founding of the state of Israel, Jews were also "terrorists," and uprooting it now is just as impossible.

"We were also terrorists once and they didn't uproot us and we went on dealing in terrorist activities," she said. "Despite all the efforts of all of the British army in the land, we went on with terrorism. It is not simple to uproot terrorism. It is not that Arafat is not trying."

"If you wait and see until there is 100 percent success in uprooting terrorism, it appears to me that peace will get further and further away before our very eyes. That is my assessment."

Asked if she thought Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted peace, Rabin said: "Allow me to express doubt. He does everything against it."



Leah Rabin (left), widow of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday after Albright laid a wreath and placed a stone on Rabin's grave on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl. (AP)

## US Jews ask Albright to restart peace process

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Highlighting a schism in the American Jewish community, 40 prominent American Jews have urged US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to preserve the "original agenda" for her visit to the region, saying she must help keep the peace process on track.

While the first focus of Albright's mission must be to "ensure that the Palestinian Authority takes more effective action against terrorism, the original agenda of your trip — as you outlined at the National Press Club last month and which included concrete ideas for putting the parties back on the path to peace — is no less vital now," they said in a letter to Albright, which was sent on Tuesday.

"We sent this message because the [Clinton] administration is hearing from people in the American Jewish community and Congress who want the secretary to limit her focus in a manner that is detrimental to Israel," said Theodore Mann, one of the signers.

"Some would use the latest terrorist atrocity as a pretext to destroy the Oslo process," he said.

"Others are allowing their understandable zeal to stop terror to cloud their judgment, and are unable to see that, for Israel's sake, it is equally vital to get peace talks re-started as soon as possible."

The letter was signed by three former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Mann, Seymour Reich and Rabbi Alexander Schindler; two former presidents of AIPAC, David Steiner and Edward Sanders; and Jack Bendheim, president of Israel Policy Forum.

Business signatories include Nathan Gantcher, chairman of Oppenheimer and Company; Bram Goldsmith, head of the City National Bank in Los Angeles; and Michael Medavoy, president of Phoenix Pictures.

The letter also attempted to counter a message to Albright from members of Congress, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Senator Majority Leader Trent Lott, who raised the possibility of cutting off relations with the Palestinian Authority.

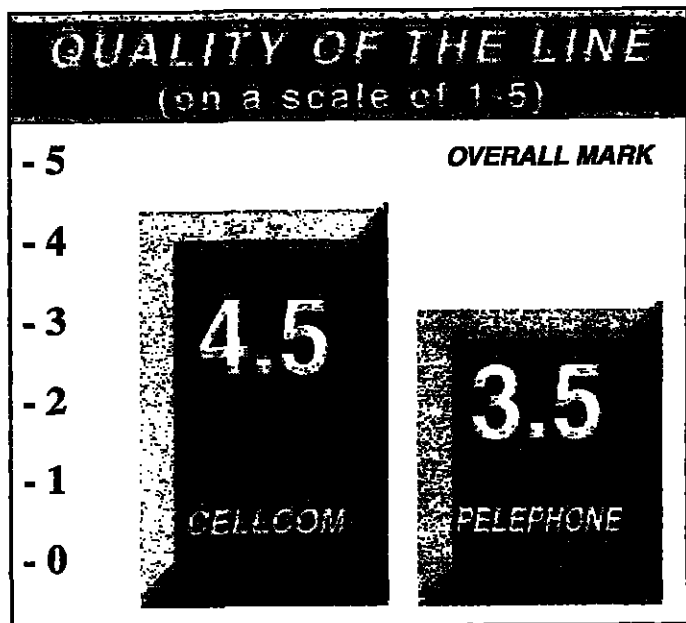
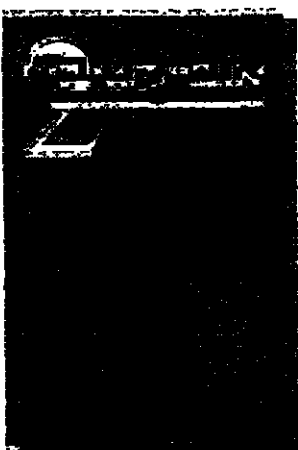
This would be "both counter-productive and threatening to the long-term interests of Israel and the US-Israel relationship," the letter said.

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## Closing the terror option

On her first plunge into the mire of the Arab-Israeli conflict, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has consciously and deftly kept her focus on the fundamental threat to the peace process: the threat of terrorism. Even with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at her side after their meeting in Ramallah yesterday, Albright refused to accept any equation between "bulldozers and bombers," stressing that, while both sides have their obligations, there can be no tolerance of the taking of human life.

In this respect, she is also heeding the stern advice of the US Congress. A letter signed by the top four leaders of the House and Senate to Albright on the eve of her visit said clearly, "There can be no more winks and nods. American patience is at an end. There can be no more equivocation on Arafat's part. Israel is our ally, and there can be no moral equivalence on ours. Arafat and the leaders of the Palestinian Authority must live up to this solemn obligation [to combat terrorism] or risk an end to the relationship with, and support of, the United States of America."

Though the letter implies that US aid to the Palestinians is threatened, future assistance is effectively already cut off. The US law that allows aid to the Palestinian Authority to flow has lapsed, and in practical terms, cannot be renewed unless the administration is able to certify to Congress that Arafat is abiding by his commitment to combat terrorism. Without concrete and unmistakable actions to combat terrorism, such certification will be impossible.

Even Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, though continuing to publicly back all of Arafat's demands, has also privately pressed Arafat to deliver in the fight against terrorism. Labor Party leader Ehud Barak also has left no daylight between him and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Arafat's unconditional obligation to fight terror.

More than perhaps ever before, a diplomatic consensus has arisen that Arafat must finally, irreversibly and unequivocally, choose between terrorism and peace. It has finally sunk in that Arafat, despite previous appearances, never made the strategic break with the use of terrorism as a lever against Israel in the peace process. Even the US has come to the conclu-

sion that the standard show of evenhandedness has not been sufficient to induce such a strategic turn, and that to save the peace process, the pressure must first fall on Arafat.

At the same time, all concerned know that this situation is temporary, and that the laser focus on Arafat to deliver will boomerang back with equal or greater intensity upon Israel if Arafat does begin to fight terrorism as promised.

It is disturbing, in this context, that any responsible Israeli leader would act to diffuse Albright's temporary, but vital, focus by urging her to pressure our government as well. It is almost beyond belief that this Israeli would be President Ezer Weizman.

Weizman, in a breakfast Wednesday attended by numerous advisers, told Albright that he opposes Netanyahu's use of economic pressure on Arafat and advised her to put both leaders in a Camp David-style pressure cooker to reach agreement. Weizman also told Albright that she would have to pressure Netanyahu to implement the upcoming redeployments required by the Oslo Accords.

President Weizman speaks his mind; it is a trait that has at times endeared and infuriated the people of Israel. Sometimes Weizman's instincts lead him to say just the right things at the right moment, other times he will gratuitously offend whole sectors of the people he is supposed to represent. Weizman's statements to Albright, however, are not merely offensive; they cross every conceivable red line and could even, by diffusing the American pressure on Arafat to curb terrorism, lead to grave consequences.

The task of convincing Arafat that keeping the terror option open will not advance his goals – and will in fact defeat them – is not an easy one. There are no guarantees of success. Albright, Weizman, and others are correct that Israel, too, has tough decisions ahead, even if the threat of terrorism is removed. But Albright is also correct when she demands that Arafat's commitment to combat terrorism be implemented immediately and unconditionally. By detracting from her focus on terrorism and inviting pressure on Israel, Weizman not only overstepped all measures of propriety, he made the peace and security all Israelis yearn for more illusive, not less.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### REPROACHFUL CLAIMS

Sir, - Accolades are due to *The Jerusalem Post* for their fine investigative reporting and up to date news! I was struck dumb at reading in (Sept. 9) that the virtuous Dutch have been detected silently sitting on billions of "unclaimed" Jewish capital for over half a century and that, therefore, their repeated reproachful claims that our miserable pensions are being paid by the Dutch taxpayer are an infamy.

DR. MARGE E. LANDSBERG  
Haifa.

### OUT OF TUNE

Sir, - World-wide prominent Agency France Press distributed the photograph of an Arab militant holding the decapitated head of an Israeli commando killed in Lebanon (Sept. 8). Very few publications used the picture. The Saudi-sponsored London based English language Al-Hayat, which is simultaneously published throughout the Middle East and in the United States, ran it as did several papers in the Palestinian Authority areas.

Al-Hayat's editor-in-chief explained the decision to run the picture resulted from its having come from a widely distributed press service and it was believed that others would publish it. Clearly, Al-Hayat is out of tune with the publishing standards of most of the world.

JOSEPH LERNER  
Jerusalem.

### OFF THE HOOKS

defense lawyers see their job as getting their clients off the hook, even if they murdered their own mother.

Alan Dershowitz, with his prominence, could perhaps be influential in steering these practices back towards a more reasonable interpretation of the law. Instead he cynically exploits its flaws for those criminals who are able to pay his fees and have the most to lose.

K. LIVNI

### GUYS AND DOLLS

ceived as specific for each sex, I would subscribe that the programs in the Center need not divide the groups according to sex.

I think that the two-year-old boys and girls should participate together in these groups. Also, at this age, there is no reason why the boys and girls cannot play soccer in a mixed group and be cheerleaders also in a mixed group.

If, at the age of two, we already separate the sexes in play groups, it seems to me that we are sending a message to the children that their roles and place in society can only be separate and different.

SHEILA WARSHAWSKY  
Omer.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 12, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that at Geneva the League of Nations Council had appointed a small, special committee to report on the Mandates Commission's recommendations. At Bludan, a small summer resort in Syria, the Arab Congress closed after adoption of resolutions concerned with opposition to the Partition of Palestine. Arab delegates demanded the abrogation of the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate to be replaced by a treaty between the Arab people and Great Britain, in which Jews would be given minority rights.

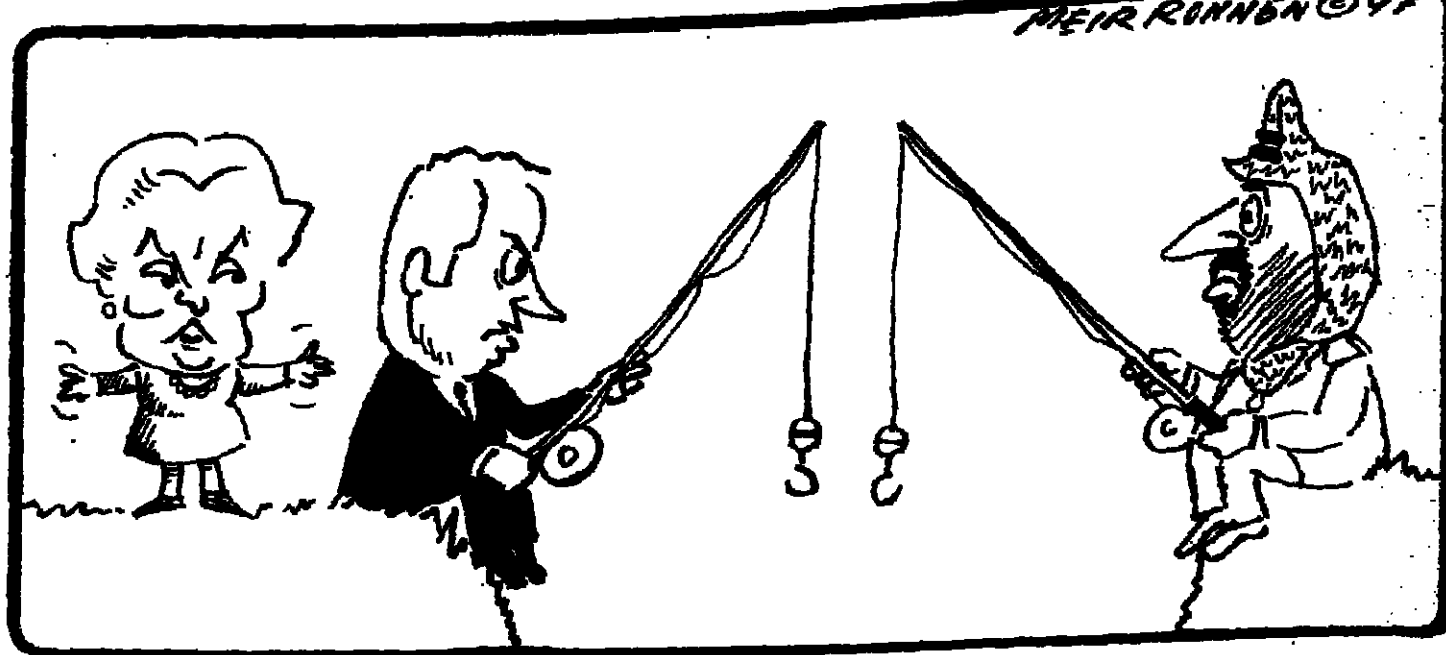
50 years ago: On September 12, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that in Hamburg the Exodus 1947 Jewish "illegal" immigrants to Palestine forced ashore had only one answer – "Palestine" – to all the questions posed by the British intelligence officers who were trying to ascertain their origins for the purpose of classifying them for "future disposal."

The Jews were telling their interrogators that they were born in Palestine, came from Palestine, Palestine was their home and they wanted to go back to Palestine. Nine Jews were killed by Rumanian frontier guards while attempting to cross into Hungary.

25 years ago: On September 12, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Belgian police were searching for a 29-year-old Moroccan wanted in connection with the ambush shooting of Israeli Embassy official Ophir Zadok, who was hit by five bullets in the liver and ear, but was out of danger, following an emergency operation in Brussels. Meyer Lansky lost his fight to stay in Israel when the High Court of Justice announced that the Ministry of Justice was justified in refusing him an immigrant status. Israel's Harvey Prizes were set up at the Technion.

Alexander Zvielli

'Where's the bait?'



## The healing US influence

ABBA ERAN

Public opinion surveys have always shown that support for the Oslo peace process is greater than the combined strength of any two or three political parties. This reality came to expression in Foreign Minister David Levy's warning this week that he "would not remain in a government that would destroy the peace." There is probably a majority in the Knesset that shares this view.

This means that if any of the parties intends to use the current crisis to jettison treaty obligations, it may have to revise its thinking. The more so if the US position is still firmly anchored in the principle of exchanging captured territories for durable peace.

Enthusiasm for Oslo is understandably not at a record height today. But it is sustained by the total absence of any alternative and by the certainty that other formulas would quench the only realistic prospect that has illuminated Israeli life since the forgotten White House encounter in 1993. The nation is simply not in a mood to abandon the Oslo Accords.

Until recently, Israel always had to seek its alliances far outside the Middle East. In World War I, the auspices were British. After World War II, the UN in a rare surge of US-Soviet cooperation gave a decisive impulse to the recognition of Israel as a sovereign nation.

For a "brief shining moment" in the 1950s, France supplied the weaponry and strategic deterrent

that made victories possible. In all the ensuing decades, the US has supported Israel's security with unflinching vigilance and constancy.

The Rabin and Peres administrations were the first to remind Israelis that no extraneous friendship, however warm, can compen-

Israel in the Vatican and the UN. It is outrageous for A.M. Rosenthal to write in *The New York Times* that "Egypt's idea of peace is nastiness and insult." Those who profess friendship for Israel should not pollute the air with their undisciplined virulence.

### Both parties must move. Neither has the option of standing still

sate for the absence of a harmonious regional order.

The priority of regional concern seems to have receded since our recent election. While it lasted the results were sensational. Within a single year, we had peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, relations at various diplomatic levels with Morocco, Tunisia, Oman, Qatar, and Mauritania, and enhanced relations with Turkey, together with the effective suspension of the Arab economic boycott.

The European Union – our chief market for expanding trade and technological support – also developed a creative diplomatic role. Economic conferences at Casablanca, Amman, Cairo, and Washington brought bankers, industrialists, and economic experts together to examine serious regional projects. There was an improved environment for

THE unraveling of these achievements has been dramatic. It cannot be overcome by appeals to one of the parties alone. The movement for peace began with Egypt and could not have begun anywhere else. Egypt is now irascible; Jordan is alienated; Morocco does not welcome Israeli leaders; Qatar is reluctant to assemble investors; the members of the EU are puzzled by the vagaries of Israeli policies.

It is sad to reflect that our most consensual hour may be behind us, not ahead of us.

The achievements of 1996 could not have collapsed without negative "contributions" from the Palestinian and Israeli leadership alike. The key to success for Madeleine Albright's mission is convergence. Both parties must move; neither has the option of standing still.

Yasser Arafat is the principal address to whom Albright must turn for remedy and change, but the idea that peace can be reconstructed on the basis of a virtually imprisoned Palestinian population, held in a squalid vice of economic decay and administrative subjection, is too grotesque for the imagination to sustain. The punitive measures imposed since the Mahaneh Yehuda tragedy were always disproportionate and unselective.

American interests are one of the major considerations now at issue. The peace process could never have developed any dynamism without active US sponsorship. Both parties, Israeli and Palestinian, were the beneficiaries of its early successes. Arafat's embrace of a Hamas leader was an error of grandiose proportions. It violated every canon of sanity, decency, and common sense.

The readiness of the US to enter the complexities of this situation did not come a single day too soon. In the present alignments of world power, there is no substitute for the moderating, pragmatic, and potentially healing exercise of American influence. Nothing could be more perilous than for any party to represent the US as impotent or lacking in reach.

Whoever of them takes that risk will incur dire responsibility and heavy international guilt.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

## A false contradiction

MARK A. HELLER

redemptions, merely established a better starting line for the Palestinians whenever real permanent status talks actually began.

This is why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began to call for accelerated negotiations, before further assets were given away, and why Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat began to act as if those negotiations were at the very bottom of his list of priorities. It is also why

on the ground.

Settlement construction has become such a neuralgic issue, not because the pace of physical activity has increased so dramatically since the elections, but because of the political symbolism behind it. Netanyahu cannot easily accept a construction moratorium in existing settlements because it would seem to signify that wherever a freeze is in effect, that area suddenly becomes nego-

### A temporary understanding can make serious permanent status negotiations possible now: Freeze both construction and redeployment, or proceed with both

all these interim agreement issues have become so much more contentious and problematic, and why the process of gradualism, which was supposed to build mutual confidence, has instead destroyed it.

EVER since the obstacle of mutual recognition was overcome at Oslo, the essential problem has remained the same: to define the territorial limits (and functional authority) of the Palestinian state.

An agreed boundary subsumes most of the other permanent status issues, but in the absence of any shared notion of how this question will be dealt with, the further redeployments and other arrangements in the interim period are perceived by both sides as shaping a reality that will strongly influence, if not predetermine, the shape of the permanent status agreement.

Only after Hebron and Har Homa did both sides begin to appreciate that implementation of the interim agreement, especially the sections dealing with further

tial for Israel.

Arafat cannot easily endorse continuing construction activity, because it would seem to signify that wherever construction goes forward, that area suddenly becomes non-negotiable for Israel.

For the most part, such interpretations are wrong, because the outcome is far less indeterminate than the lack of formal agreement might suggest. It is already clear that Palestinians will not give up Areas A and B. It is also already clear that Israel will not give up the major settlement blocs around Jerusalem or in western Samaria and that it will insist on some kind of special status for the Jordan Valley that will probably permit the maintenance of the settlements there, as well.

As for the rest of Area C, it is already clear that most of it will eventually be included in the Palestinian state – subject to satisfactory security arrangements. The exact percentages are still

subject to negotiation, but denial of the general principle means denial of the possibility of any agreement at all.

Much evidence, including even Netanyahu's "All-on-plus" plan, testifies to the fact that this reality has already permeated the thinking of all sides. Consequently, neither redeployments short of the 80%-85% of the West Bank nor continuing construction elsewhere are really prejudicial to either side's bargaining position.

And this suggests a temporary understanding between the two sides that can make serious permanent status negotiations possible now: either to freeze both construction and redeployment, or to proceed with both.

But the important thing is to get serious talks moving. The original Oslo timetable may not mean much. Target dates have already been missed. Yitzhak Rabin himself argued that no dates are sacred, and there even is something illogical about a prior commitment to complete negotiations by a specific time.

But if that timetable means anything at all, then the argument about accelerating the negotiations is already beside the point. The talks were supposed to begin well over a year ago, and they are supposed to be finished in less than 20 months.

It is not yet clear what Albright is taking back from her visit here. But it is clear what she should be leaving behind: a cordial invitation to both sides to come to Washington with two maps and enough clean clothes to last them until they can go home with one.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

## POSTSCRIPTS

THE SUBJECT of the dispute is peanuts – \$2 worth.

Which is why Los Angeles baseball fans at Dodger Stadium say the firing of one of the park's most venerable characters seems so nutty.

Peanut vendor Richard Aller, whose gravel-voiced cry of "Nuts!" has echoed through the ballpark since the day it opened, complains that he has been kicked out for misappropriation of

peanuts. Specifically, he says, he purchased two bags of salted goobers at a discount from a pair of fellow vendors who had gotten them free as part of their lunch allotment. Then he resold them to fans for a profit.

He says the concessionaire who dismissed him considers that against the rules.

That has prompted cries of "Foul!" from fans in the section

where he worked, who say Aller's noisy, good-naturedly caustic style is part of the joy of visiting the ballpark.

"People get season tickets just to be in his section," said one fan. Aller, 54, acknowledges he violated regulations by buying peanuts from other vendors and reselling them. But he contends that the punishment hardly fits the crime.

"I can see being warned not to do it again, or maybe suspended

for five or six games. But I can't see being fired after 38 years for one offense," he said.

Fans began lobbying for Aller, and the issue has reached the baseball team itself, which promised to look into the matter.

Aller, who turned his back on a career as a history teacher to hawk nuts, has been doing it since 1959. He sells about 300 bags per game, enough to earn about \$13,000 a year.



## Madeleine Albright – Superwoman or Sisyphus?

As Israelis and Palestinians cast about for a way out of the mire, all eyes are focused on the US secretary of state. Abraham Rabinovich reports.

Would the new school-marm smack her ruler on the desk to get the class's attention and perhaps twist an ear or two? Or would she try sweet reason on the unruly louts? Rarely has a visit here by an American secretary of state been so eagerly anticipated as was Madeleine Albright's this week. In part, it was an expectation whetted by abstinence – Albright's decision to keep away from this trouble spot during her first eight months in office, in the futile hope that the parties involved might meanwhile begin to get their act together.

But in greater part, Albright is being watched with such interest because neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians, left to themselves, appear to have the faintest idea of where to go from here, except on to ever greater conflict. Surliness and a whiff of despair hang over the land.

"Her major objective will be to

**"Albright's major objective will be to reestablish the rules of engagement in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. I don't think it's hopeless"**

— Prof. Asher Susser, Tel Aviv University

reestablish the rules of engagement in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations," said Prof. Asher Susser of Tel Aviv University this week. "I don't think it's hopeless." The recent terror bombings have obliged Albright to place almost exclusive focus initially on the security issue rather than project an "evenhanded" approach.

"American policy is, in a way, a victim of its own paradigm," said Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the US until last year. Washington had decided before the recent suicide bombings to break the negotiating deadlock with a formula placing the onus first on the Palestinians to curb terror. "It's now not [just] a slogan," said Rabinovich.

But American pressure on the Palestinians will inevitably be followed by American pressure on Israel. Without Israeli concessions, said Susser, an expert on the Palestinians, any crackdown

by Arafat on Hamas will lead to his people perceiving him as a collaborator with Israel rather than as an equal partner in the peace process.

Rabinovich stressed that Albright's visit must be seen in the broad Middle East context rather than within the confines of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. The former ambassador pointed to the upcoming meetings of foreign ministers of the Gulf states and the Arab League, as well as to American interests regarding Iraq and Iran.

"If the US is seen as simply being on Israel's side, it's not going to help American policy," he said.

In any case, the classic ritual where expectations are deliberately lowered before a diplomatic visit was rendered almost unnecessary by this summer's suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Rabinovich said, adding, "This time, lowered expectations are very well warranted."

Albright may have fantasized about coming to the Middle East to nudge the stalled peace process into a forward momentum, and then riding it downhill into a sunlit valley with the wind in her hair. Instead, in an atmosphere made heavy by the total distrust between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, she faced the awful prospect of becoming a diplomatic Sisyphus, trying again and again to push the peace process up a steep slope, only to see it roll back down before it crests.

PROF. SHLOMO AVINERI of the Hebrew University, a former Foreign Ministry director-general, knew Albright when she was a professor of political science at Georgetown. He worked with her on an international observer delegation to the first post-communist elections in Czechoslovakia in 1990.

"She's a very tough lady, but she combines toughness with compassion," Avineri said in an interview on Wednesday. "I'm sure she will be very sensitive not only to the Israeli government's demand for security, but to popular feeling in Israel about security. On the other hand, I have no doubt that she will be aware that the issue is not security, but the continuation of the Oslo process."

"Do you try to overcome crisis when things go wrong," Avineri asked, "or do you use a crisis – like terrorism – as an alibi for scuttling the whole process?"

"Netanyahu's government has done the latter, and my feeling is that Albright will very clearly present him with a stark question:



Can she make a difference? A pensive Albright lays a small stone on the tombstone of Yitzhak Rabin yesterday, before meeting with the assassinated prime minister's 'partner in peace,' Yasser Arafat. (Reuters)

Does the government continue to be committed to the principles of the Oslo agreements, which call for Israel eventually to give up most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

"If the answer is yes, then you continue to negotiate and work out a mechanism that makes this possible," the political science professor does not think a bald "no" is likely.

Avineri expected Albright to be tough with Arafat as well. "She will want to find out if he is prepared not only for more security cooperation, but to reach out to the Israeli public, which has to be reassured. She will want to know whether Arafat's public embrace of Hamas leaders means that he wishes, through a public gesture, to include them in the peace process – which is an option – or whether it is a signal to Hamas that says, 'I

am your possible future ally'?" And if Albright's mission fails? Will Washington leave Israel and the Palestinians to their own devices? Will it apply pressure on those it deems guilty?

**Albright faces the awful prospect of becoming a diplomatic Sisyphus, trying again and again to push the peace process up a steep slope, only to see it roll back down before it crests.**

Rabinovich sees two opposing schools of thought in Washington on the let-them-stew-in-their-own-juice option. The terrorist bombings, he

believes, make it unlikely that Washington will walk away. As for pressure, if the Clinton administration sees the need for it, Rabinovich says, it will likely not take the form of blunt confrontation but rather

will take leave of the region next week with enough items on her check list ticked off to warrant a return visit – but probably without any resonating breakthrough. "Something positive, but very minor, is likely to happen," he anticipated.

AVINERI BELIEVES the secretary came here to test the will for peace on both sides.

"If such will doesn't exist, no American government has a chance," he said. The Americans had no role in Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel, he noted, nor in the Israeli-Jordanian peace initiative, nor in the Oslo agreement.

"America was never successful at initiating a peace process. But when there is political will on both sides, the US is extremely important as a facilitator."

Noting Albright's plans to address high school students in both camps during her brief visit, Avineri believed it was the secretary's intention to appeal over the heads of Netanyahu and Arafat to their peoples – particularly the youth, who, in the end, will do the dying if the peace process fails. He feels such an approach could change the nature of the internal debate in the country.

Whatever her hesitations about coming to the Middle East until now, it seems likely that Madeleine Albright will become as familiar a figure in the region as her predecessors were, given the complexity of the region's problems and its importance to Washington.

What is not yet clear is whether, when she emerges from her airplane next time, it will be as Sisyphus or superwoman.

## Feeling fed up with Arafat

In many ways, these bombings begin to approach the atrocity of a concentration camp. No one could blame the people of Israel if they decide that they cannot continue peace negotiations under these circumstances. My view is that it takes two parties to pursue peace, and both parties must want peace. I had thought up to this point that Yasser Arafat wants peace. I must say, honestly, I no longer believe that to be the case.

Following last Thursday's Ben-Yehuda Street bombings, the above appeared in a statement issued by a prominent member of Congress – but not by a consistent critic of the PLO like House Speaker Newt Gingrich or Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms, both Republicans; and not by a skeptic like Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman.

The author was California Senator Dianne Feinstein, until now a leading supporter of the peace process.

Feinstein says that viewing the television images of the casualties was one ugly experience too many, especially after Arafat's now-infamous embrace of Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi in Gaza two weeks earlier.

That hug undermined the PLO's already shaky image in Congress, say lawmakers and observers.

Many of the condemnations issued by members of Congress after the bombings went beyond the usual outrage. They called for an immediate cut-off of aid to the Palestinian Authority and a reassessment of the US's involvement with Arafat.

**The latest suicide bombings, coupled with the PA chairman's public embrace of a Hamas leader, may prompt Congress to demand a heavier hand against the PA, Hillel Kuttler writes from Washington.**

Feinstein also expressed the view prevailing on Capitol Hill even before the recent attack, when she stated that Congress should not renew the now-lapsed Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEPPA), the law governing US relations with the PLO.

While very little of the roughly \$100 million in annual US assistance to the Palestinians goes directly to the PA, Congress made its point that Arafat has crossed a dangerous threshold. A senior US official said that following Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region this week, the administration would approach Congress about legislating a new MEPPA.

"I think [Arafat's] standing [on Capitol Hill] is pretty much at an all-time low since we opened a dialogue with the Palestinians, because the general feeling in Congress is that he's not going after 'terrorists,'" says New York congressman Eliot Engel, a Democrat. "I think the bombings have cast a whole new light on the whole process."

Last month, Engel participated in the most recent congressional

delegation to visit Arafat, a day after the PA leader's embrace of Rantisi made front pages around the world, and three weeks after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

Engel says that he told Arafat he "wasn't doing nearly enough to confront Islamic terrorism," adding that "for him to embrace Rantisi, so soon after the bombing, was a disgrace."

"We're at the end of the line here," Engel states. "Yasser Arafat and the PA have a fundamental choice to make: Do they want the peace process to continue? If they do, he has to go after terrorists."

"And then we'll have a reassessment here in Washington, in terms of assistance to the PA. The ball's in his court... I'm not trying to set the threshold so high. I believe in the peace process, but I don't think that Arafat's been playing it straight. I don't think there's any tolerance or patience for that anymore."

A pro-Israel lobbyist called the Arafat-Rantisi hug a watershed event for Congress. Most people I've spoken to on the Hill reacted the same way: Enough," he said. "Up to now, there's been a toler-

ance of this stuff. The combination of that meeting in Gaza, with the bombing, has made people feel it's untenable. There'd been a sense things would be okay. Now there's not. There's a sense maybe the guy's not serious."

In statements and letters to Albright after the latest bombing, several members of Congress pressed the secretary to get tough with Arafat this week and keep security concerns front and center on the agenda.

Congress's bipartisan leadership – Gingrich and Senate majority leader Trent Lott, along with minority leaders Tom Daschle in the Senate and Richard Gephardt in the House – co-authored a letter to Albright stating that if the Palestinians do not adopt the anti-terrorism steps she demanded in her August 6 speech, "the US has little else to talk to them about."

"Arafat and the leaders of the PA must live up to their solemn obligation or risk an end to the relationship with and support of the US," they warned.

CONGRESSIONAL expectations for Albright's trip are low. Feinstein believes the visit could prove a success if it renews Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation and if terrorist attacks cease. Hank Brown, a Republican who chaired the Near East subcommittee before leaving the Senate for academia this year, feels that merely by traveling to the region, Albright's trip is encouraging because it shows the US is "engaged" in the peace process.

See FED UP, Page 14

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# Torn over Lebanon: two tales

By LARRY DERFNER



Photo: Jonathan Bloom



Living near the border and with a son defending the area, Rachel Keinan has many questions and no certainties. But her feeling is growing that the IDF must pack up and leave the Security Zone

Shlomi's Yisrael Avakrat is incensed by the public debate over withdrawal. It has a devastating effect on soldiers' morale, says the council head of the northern development town

Driving home recently from the IDF ceremony where her son, Adi, 21, was inducted as a fighter in an elite unit now serving in Lebanon, Rachel Keinan said to him: "I think what you're doing is very important, but I'm not sure the problem can't be solved another way."

"He got very mad at me," recalls Keinan, "and said, 'Mother, don't you understand? If I'm not willing to defend this area, who will?'"

The Keinans live on Kibbutz Eilon in western Galilee, about 1.5 km from the border with Lebanon. A couple of years ago their other son, Harel, also served in an elite unit in Lebanon.

"I was very impressed by the way Adi talked," said Keinan, 51, in her jewelry-making studio on the kibbutz. But despite her pride, her conflicts and doubts, she's come to the conclusion that Adi, and all the other Israeli soldiers, have to pack up and leave the Security Zone in south Lebanon.

She's one of the residents of the north who experience the conflict from both sides: they are vulnerable to falling Katyushas, and also send their sons over the border to fight. But Keinan says the Katyushas don't worry her — nobody on Eilon has ever been injured by one. Most land in the fields. The worst damage a Katyusha ever did was destroy a kibbutz tractor. She rarely even goes down into the bomb shelter.

Her fear is for her sons. Until Harel went up to Lebanon, Keinan says she managed to avoid thinking about the war. Then she began to think: "It's the soldiers' job to defend civilians, yes, but you have to balance that against the price we're paying. So many soldiers are being killed. Why aren't their lives as valuable as those of civilians?"

After finishing his tour of duty in Lebanon, she says, Harel "just wanted to get the hell out of here for awhile." He's now traveling in the US with two He's now traveling in the US with two other soldiers from his unit "clearing their heads," in the Israeli vernacular. On the subject of Lebanon, Keinan, a Peace Now supporter, treads carefully, not certain about withdrawal.

"My son doesn't like me to talk about it," she says. "The soldiers get brain-washed up there, they're told. And it's necessary. You can't be in Lebanon and not fight if you don't believe in what you're doing. I know the more people talk about [withdrawal], the more demoralized the soldiers become. But the debate can't be stopped."

Yet while she goes to demonstrations

supporting peace with the Palestinians, Keinan rejects her adolescent daughter's urgings that she join the other mothers protesting at highway intersections for a pullout from Lebanon. She doesn't want to put Adi in an uncomfortable position. Keinan also says she would not talk about her opinions in a Hebrew-language newspaper likely to be read by soldiers in the security zone.

"I'm aware," she continues, "that if we pull out, it could be taken as defeatism. But even if we're putting our tails between our legs, this has to be balanced against the number of victims, and the feeling of some young people who ask, 'Why should we live in a country that we always have to fight and die for?'"

(She notes, however, that neither Harel nor Adi shares this attitude.) Just pulling out could be damaging to Israel, she acknowledges, but points out that Lebanon is not her country.

"Look, it's a problem," Keinan continues. "If it was so simple, it would have been solved long ago. It's like choosing between polio and cholera."

Keinan allows that if the IDF pulls out, Hizbullah could well carry out a massacre of soldiers in the South Lebanese Army militia, Israel's ally in the security zone. "On the one hand that's wrong. On the other hand, is it our job to protect them?" she asks. She has to come up with an answer.

Keinan remembers the way Katyushas fell daily around Kibbutz Eilon in the late '70s and early '80s, and is not prepared to go back to that time. But she also suspects that Israel is "locked into a concept" that the north can only be defended from inside Lebanon.

"I'm not a politician, I'm not an expert," she says, but notes that Israel's defense technology has improved greatly in the last 20 years. "This has to make a difference," she says. "Hizbullah was only founded when the IDF went into Lebanon [in 1982]. If the IDF left, maybe Hizbullah would be satisfied."

Keinan is ready to give the Golan Heights back to Syria, and suggests that the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon would be a "signal" to Hafez Assad. Beyond this, she says, international or, preferably, American troops could be placed in the security zone as peacekeepers.

"We might be able to pull out gradually, with security guarantees along the way," she says. "And if it didn't work, we're strong enough to go back in. At least we have to give it a try."

Keinan has many questions and no certainties.

She just insists that the need to stay in the security zone is no certainty, either. "Israelis didn't ask these kinds of questions when they thought they would always have war. They thought, 'How can we show weakness?' But in the last few years, when people began to think that peace was possible, they began to change. Once they thought, 'It's good to die for one's country.' Now it's, 'Yes, but up to a certain point.' Our lives have become very important to us."

"It's a gamble," she admits. "I don't know what's going to happen if we try to get out, but I know that this war is too horrible to just keep going on."

## Across party lines

The debate over whether to withdraw IDF soldiers from the Security Zone in south Lebanon, or whether to keep them in place, surfaced again this past February after the helicopter crash that killed 73 soldiers on their way to the fighting.

Four mothers of soldiers serving in Lebanon began protesting at highway intersections, calling for unilateral withdrawal, saying the price of staying in the zone was too high.

Some 200 soldiers have been killed in the fighting since the zone was established at the end of the 1982-85 Lebanon War. Hundreds of other soldiers have been killed in Lebanon-related accidents, like the helicopter crash.

A couple of weeks after the crash, the national debate over Lebanon subsided. But it resumed more intensely with wider support after the deaths a week ago of 12 navy commandos during a landing north of the Security Zone for a raid on Hizbullah guerrillas. The four mothers say some 10,000 Israelis have signed a petition they drew up calling for a unilateral withdrawal.

The movement now also has a leader: Labor MK Yossi Beilin. "Security officials, including [some] in Northern Command, very senior officials, think as I do but don't say so publicly — and rightly so — because they don't want to go up against the political echelon," Beilin has been quoted as saying.

Likud Science Minister Michael Eitan and MK Gideon Ezra have also come out for unilateral withdrawal, arguing that Israel could defend its citizens in the north more effectively, and at a lower cost in lives, on the Israeli side of the border.

Minister of Infrastructure Ariel Sharon

'You can tell all those bleeding hearts in Tel Aviv sitting around and debating whether to withdraw from Lebanon to come live here for awhile. It's no pleasure going underground at night with explosions going off all around you. You don't sleep. And while he's at it, Dr. [Yossi] Beilin should also call for withdrawal from Mahaneh Yehuda. It's dangerous there, too."

Yisrael Avakrat, 54, is the local council head of Shlomi, a development town of some 5,000 residents 6 km west of Kibbutz Eilon, about 1.5 km from the border. Sitting in his office, Likud party

member Avakrat points out the window: "You see the top of that hill? If we pull out of the Security Zone, Hizbullah will come down that hill and they won't leave a stone unturned in the Galilee."

Like Kibbutz Eilon, Shlomi has been hit by plenty of Katyushas, but no one here has ever been hurt. "A Katyusha hit one of the houses, but luckily nobody was home," Avakrat says.

His two sons, aged 24 and 27 — whom Avakrat identifies only as "E." and "N." — fought in Lebanon in recent years, and are liable to return as reserve soldiers.

Avakrat says he experiences Lebanon both as a citizen living on the border and as a parent. He says he discusses the situation with his sons. "It's clear to them that we have the advantage by staying in the Security Zone. That's the way they felt before the deaths of the 12 navy commandos, and that's how they feel now."

Avakrat doesn't think the issue of withdrawal should be debated publicly. "Is this the time for a national debate on the issue, when the Israeli people are feeling depressed? This is for the political and military echelons alone to discuss. Hizbullah reads the newspapers."

"I understand the mothers [calling for withdrawal] and I don't want to get into an argument with them. There is a very emotional attitude," he continues, "but I have to ask — did mothers of soldiers ask such questions during the Six Day War or the Yom Kippur War? They didn't. Tomorrow pilots will be questioning whether they should fly over Lebanon. The IDF is not a kindergarten."

Shlomi council head Avakrat believes that public airing of the controversy devastates the soldiers' morale. "What do those in favor of withdrawal want to tell a boy who's on patrol at night in Lebanon? The army is telling him, 'Look behind you [to the northern Israeli settlements]. It's because of you that they can live.'"

Avakrat ticks off names of other north-

ern cities and settlements whose citizens have been killed in the past by terrorists infiltrating from Lebanon: Ma'alot, Kibbutz Margalit, Nahariya. He recalls that before Israel went into Lebanon in 1982, "Once or twice a week the streets around here would be closed, schools closed, and people didn't go to work because there were warnings that terrorists might have infiltrated." It is only the IDF's presence in the Security Zone, Avakrat maintains, that prevents this from happening again.

And he believes there is a military solution for peace. "The IDF has to fight aggressively and creatively. As long as we remain the strong ones, there will be an end to the fighting in Lebanon. I believe what happened to the navy commandos was an accident. With all the pain, this shouldn't shake our faith. What, people don't believe in the IDF anymore?"

But he thinks Israel must extend the battle to Syria. "There's no choice, we have to hit Syria hard," he says, to show Assad that if he continues to let Hizbullah attack Israel, Syria will suffer.

To those who call for withdrawal, Avakrat says, "Let them explain how we're supposed to do it. If we pull out today, it will be a surrender to Hizbullah and Syria. They'll take this as a sign of weakness, and it will serve as fuel for Hizbullah's rockets."

As for the proposal that foreign peacekeeping troops be asked to take the IDF's place in the security zone, he says sarcastically, "It's a very good idea — for Switzerland."

There are many left-wing Ashkenazi kibbutzim alongside the many right-wing, mainly Sephardi, development towns and moshavim along the northern border. Does Avakrat sense political divisions in the area over the issue of withdrawal?

"No," he replies. "Here everyone belongs to the same party — 'The Confrontation Line.'"

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# Arafat's balancing act with terror

If you want to see security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians at its best, take a look at some day-to-day activities in the Gaza Strip.

Every morning you'll see IDF soldiers and Palestinian Authority police commanders discuss the coming day and take reports from the field. If demonstrations are planned in Gaza City or in Khan Yunis, the PA commander will tell his Israeli counterpart and both will plan ways to ensure that the protest doesn't get out of hand.

On August 27, IDF and PA police embarked on what security sources say was an unprecedented rescue exercise. The forces jointly simulated a road accident between a Palestinian vehicle and an Israeli car with 30 injured on both sides. The exercise was conducted with what the sources say was a high degree of professionalism.

Not surprisingly, many IDF commanders have little but good to say about PA field officers. "There are ups and downs, but the level of cooperation is clearly good and reasonable, and this is what stands as the basis for the quiet and security we have today," outgoing IDF OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yonai says.

Now for the bad part. When it comes to sharing intelligence information on Islamic extremists or discovering terrorist plots before they are carried out, the PA is simply nowhere to be found.

At security meetings, PA representatives remain largely silent, writing down tips from their Israeli counterparts but rarely volunteering any information.

"Intelligence sharing is not based on sentimentality or goodwill," a senior Israeli intelligence officer says. "It is based on shared interests. I need something and you need something. You give me what I need, and I give you what you need. There is little of that in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. They don't need us to tell them about Hamas or Jihad."

A typical session of a security cooperation meeting begins with both sides discussing terrorist alerts. Israel demands the arrest of certain Hamas and Islamic Jihad suspects or inquires on the whereabouts of fugitives believed hiding in PA-controlled areas. In short, the Israelis provide the information and charges and expect the Palestinians to bring in the suspects.

The demanding attitude some-

**When it comes to a joint fight against violence, there are stark – and for Israel sobering – limits beyond which Arafat will not go.**  
**Steve Rodan investigates**

times insults the Palestinians. "The Israelis have little respect for us," a PA security official who has participated in these meetings says. "They are polite on the surface. But they clearly don't treat us as equals, rather as if they are our superior officers."

Lately the Palestinians have been responding more grudgingly than ever to requests for security action.

PA sources are certain that most of the 100 people arrested since the Ben-Yehuda Street bombings will be released within days after US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright leaves the Middle East. PA security agents told some relatives that the detainees were not suspected of terrorism, but had been picked up for political reasons.

Not surprisingly, the Islamic groups have played along, and are brazen. "I am confident that the PA is acting with wisdom and will not arrest more Hamas activists," Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi says. Why doesn't Arafat fight terrorism? Palestinian security officials say he does.

The difference is that Arafat is doing what any leader of a nation would: First he focuses on the threats to his own regime. If they match those of other nations, then, under certain circumstances, he will share information and demonstrate cooperation.

If his interests don't demand that he take action, Arafat will appear sympathetic, but do little.

As Arafat sees it, the more force he uses against Hamas, the greater will be the erosion in his popularity. During his 30 years as head of the PLO, Arafat has watched the fall of such leaders as Egypt's Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated, the toppling of the Shah of Iran, the execution of Romania's

Ceausescu and the stepping aside of the Soviet Union's Gorbachev – men who, the PA chief believes, mistakenly placed their need to curry favor with the West above their interest in remaining popular at home.

"The problem between the Palestinian Authority and government of Israel is that the Israelis want to put security before a political solution," Arafat's strategic adviser Hani Hassan says. "That means you have to destroy everything before there is a political solution."

Palestinian security agencies are most active when they try to quash dissent or take over an institution. Suspects are quickly arrested, and interrogation methods are brutal.

**Privately, some PA security forces say real cooperation with Israel on counterterrorism is out of reach.**

There are no trials and little publicity. It is a description that fits what prime minister Yitzhak Rabin thought could be an advantage in cooperating with Arafat. But the Palestinians' methods of handling Islamic

extremists and terrorism are different. The only real confrontation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad – in November 1994, when 14 militants were killed after Friday mosque prayers – was too bloody for Arafat to repeat. Arab and Islamic reaction was so fierce that Palestinians feared countries like Iran, Syria or Sudan would pay to have PA leaders assassinated.

The gap between the Israeli and Palestinian positions and interests in fighting terrorism is so wide that Albright is said to have quietly decided not to make this the focus of her visit.

Diplomatic sources said after Albright's talks in Jerusalem that she has all but given up on Arafat taking a strong stand against

Hamas and Islamic Jihad. They maintain that the secretary is concentrating instead on trying to bring about a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Palestinian officials say that hopes for security cooperation represent one of the biggest misunderstandings of the 1993 Oslo Agreements. They acknowledged at Oslo, and at subsequent meetings, that Arafat would never fight terrorism in a way that would risk his popularity. He would do it his way, they said.

Some PA officials also complain that Israel is expecting instant results.

They point to a long bumpy history of US-Israel intelligence cooperation. Israel sought information-sharing since the beginning of statehood, but it took the CIA until the late 1950s to start cooperating, after the Mossad gave Washington valuable information on the Soviet Union.

The Palestinians note that the US didn't cooperate with Israel in counterterrorism efforts until the late 1980s, when the CIA determined that both countries were threatened by Islamic militancy.

Israeli intelligence cooperation with Arab countries is meager. Israeli and Palestinian officials say. Israeli-Jordanian security ties are excellent. But Egypt and Israel do not have such a relationship, despite the fact that Islamic fundamentalists threaten both countries.

In the early days of the Oslo process, Israeli politicians and some security officials were convinced that Arafat and Israel had a shared interest when it came to Hamas. As they saw it, Hamas threatened Arafat's rule and was responsible for terrorism inside Israel. Therefore the basis of a joint campaign was there.

Security officials with long memories hoped for a relationship based on personal loyalty, such as the one between Arafat's security chief Ali Hassan Salameh and the CIA's Robert Ames. During the 1970s, both men met secretly to discuss intelligence, suspected plots and ways to increase security for Americans in wartime Beirut.

The PLO provided help, but far more often betrayed and was betrayed by the Americans. "Favors were done. Deals were struck," write John and Janet Wallach in their 1990 book *Arafat in the Eyes of the Beholder* (Mandarin, London).

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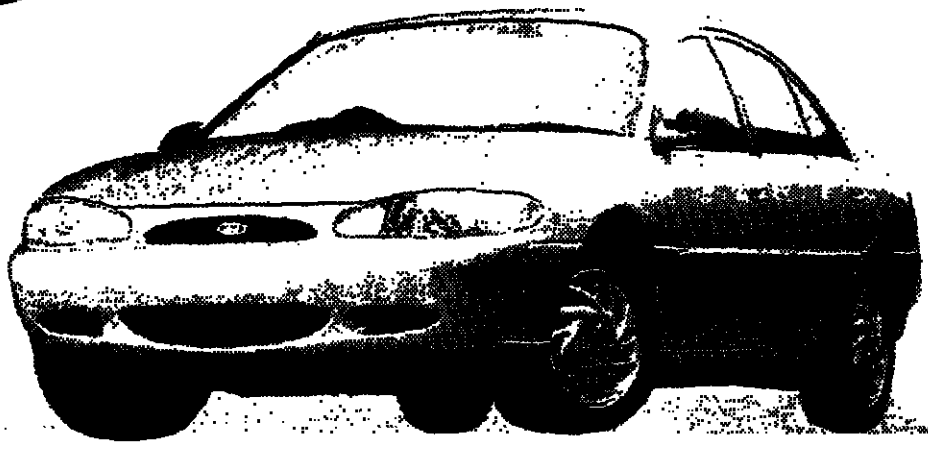
Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall just after the triple suicide attack; the road seems bumpy for Israeli-Palestinian joint security efforts. (Ariel Jerozolimski)

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MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

The better ones among the Jews," said Czar Nicholas I's Education Minister Sergei Uvarov, "concede that a major cause of their misery is the Talmud."

Most, if not all, haredi leaders are unlikely to have heard of Uvarov, who some 150 years ago sought to reform the Jews of Czarist Russia by herding them into secular schools. Yet haredi Israel's response to Finance Minister Yacov Neeman's intention to detach it from Middle Israel's nipple has been largely similar to that met by Uvarov and his Jewish henchman, Max Lillenthal.

Having shared a German background and a so-called "enlightened agenda," the two men found a common language as they set out to redeem the Jews from their material backwardness and spiritual despair. Only education, concluded Uvarov, would effectively undo the Talmud's impact. To achieve that, the czar had better

# Mad Max returns

mobilize "the best among the Jews," he said.

Ultimately this shallow, patronizing and antisemitic attitude produced a plan for the establishment of a state-sponsored network of Jewish schools. The only problem was that Russia's downtrodden Jews had no intention of following their yetke cousin's lead.

Considering his attempts to impose various draconian measures on the Jews, ranging from a prohibition on beard-growing to kidnapping little boys for 25 years of military service, Nicholas's educational scheme was worthy of all the antagonism it received from its intended beneficiaries.

For four years, Lillenthal and Uvarov tried to promote their plan to have German teachers re-educate what then was the world's largest Jewish community. When he saw his plans go awry, and after having been personally abused by the Jews of Minsk, Lillenthal tried to convince his friend Uvarov to impose the plan through legislation and brute force, an offer which, ironically, the Gentle rejected.

To make the long story short, at 29, Lillenthal emigrated to America, where he became a Reform rabbi who earned some fame for his memorable declaration "America is our Zion."

Otherwise, Lillenthal the man has been largely forgotten. However, memories of the plan's defeat by rabbinical determination still warm the hearts of haredi leaders.

So it is not surprising that today's haredi politicians have reflexively treated Neeman - after he made public a proposal to end most state funding for yeshiva students and all but abolish the Religious Affairs Ministry itself - as if he were a version of Mad Max.

However, while he is almost as lonely, idealistic and quixotic as Lillenthal was in his endeavor, Neeman is anything but the reincarnation of that glib sycophant.

For one thing, unlike Lillenthal, Neeman is himself a strictly Orthodox Jew who can teach most of his haredi detractors any tractate of the Talmud. Secondly, Neeman's plan, unlike Lillenthal's in his time, is staunchly supported by the Jewish public. Thirdly, and most importantly, Neeman has no qualms about what happens within state-funded yeshiva walls. He simply wonders why their residents - whose number last year alone shot up by 25 percent to 200,000 pupils - won't foot some of their tuition bills the way university students do.

For religious politicians, particularly Zionists, to disagree with Neeman on these counts is not

only wrong but tragic.

Wrong because the assumption that the middle-class taxpayer and his limited resources will always be there to finance religious institutions, is likely to explode one day. That might happen either in the form of a major bankruptcy, like that which already plagues Bnei Brak's municipality, or a tax revolt, or both.

It is tragic because the idealization of clinging to state funds to ostensibly nurture man's link to God is neither Jewish nor moral.

It is not Jewish because throughout the ages, Jews dug ritual baths, built synagogues, attended yeshivot, arranged weddings and tended cemeteries without the state's involvement. It is absurd to assume that Israel's religious life should hinge on the state. Judging by historic precedent, no religious services would cease to exist should the state renege on funding them. If anything, such a change would allow the government to cut taxes, freeing more funds for the private sector with which to fulfill all those functions in a much more cost-efficient way.

Nor is it moral. The vast majority of Israelis are opposed to this fiscal orgy. The meteoric proliferation of the nonworking work-age yeshiva student - from 1.2 percent

of the workforce in 1980 to nearly 2.5% today - must end, particularly in light of the fact that haredi children already comprise more than 5.5% of Israeli youngsters.

Don't their parents and rabbis wonder who will feed them once they grow up? Yacov Neeman does.

Evidently, too many haredi leaders refuse to acknowledge that to sustain the levels of financial aid they currently receive from the state, they must at least join it in the two places where it is welded, for better and for worse: the army and the workplace.

Unlike the Czar's decree of a 25-year military service at age 12, Neeman is proposing one month at age 24. And unlike Lillenthal, who sought to cripple rabbinic authority, Neeman's agenda is strictly economic: earn your bread yourself not only because the alternative is immoral but because it is unaffordable and, at any rate, on someone else's account.

Apparently, the unified front that opposes Neeman represents a bureaucratic class which thrives on the proliferation of patronage, while masses of other religious people languish in ever-deepening poverty.

Do haredi leaders really expect this glaring anomaly to last forever?

## Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM

# Of power and servitude

## The worth of every life

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

When the talmudic sage Rabbi Gamliel II was president of the Sanhedrin towards the end of the first century CE, he offered paying jobs in the religio-judicial hierarchy to two impoverished scholars. They turned down the offer because, they said, they did not wish to be in a position to lord it over people.

Rabbi Gamliel said to them: "You think it is *power* I am offering you? It is *servitude* I am asking you to assume!"

Few are the people we know who would turn down an offer of an office. Few, too, are the public officials we know - whether of the secular or of the religious stripe - who regard their office as "servitude" rather than as an opportunity to fatten themselves or the sectarian interests they represent.

Another sage, Rabbi Yehoshua ben Perahia, who headed the Sanhedrin briefly during the Hasmonian period, pithily summed up the temptations of office, even for those who would honestly and faithfully serve: "Previously, if anyone suggested that I assume high office, I felt like tying him up and throwing him to the lions. Now, I could pour a pot of boiling water over anyone who

would tell me to step down." (Menachot 109b with the related Tosafot commentary).

What a different world this would be if more of those presuming to lead the people in the name of one or another of the various religious or secular ethical and moral ideals were examples of sincere striving to live up to those ideals, instead of being exemplars of how easily we all surrender to temptation.

What a nobler Israel we would be if, especially, more of those who proclaim unreserved fidelity to the teachings of the sages were closer to being personifications of those teachings, and the Torah on which the teachings are based, and fewer of them were run-of-the-mill bounty-seekers distinguished from the others only by their covered heads and other ritual formalities.

"JUDGE ALL people favorably," is the accepted English translation of one of the teachings of the above-mentioned Rabbi Yehoshua ben Perahia (Pirkei Avot 1:6).

"Look at the good side of people," is another way of saying it.

The original Hebrew text lends itself to a more literal, yet finer reading. Supporting the conventional reading, it also indicates how we may hone our ability to judge people thus. Literally, it says: "Judge the entire person favorably! *Heh vey dan et kol ha'adam lekef techut.*"

Some commentators elaborate this admonition as follows: Best of all, as Hillel teaches, don't judge your fellows before you have been in their place (Pirkei Avot 2:5). But if you must judge people,

do so in terms of the whole person, not in terms of one or another of their faults. Then the wart on your fellow's face or in his personality or character shrinks to insignificance, and you see the beauty and the goodness of him as a whole. (See *L'knei Bator L'knei* by Rabbi Shmuel Alter, Feldheim, 1951.)

That is how some commentators read the words of the Moabite king Balak in Numbers 23:13. Balak hires the Aramean soothsayer Balaam to curse the Jews. Balaam fails in his first attempt, explaining, "I must be careful to speak only what God puts in my mouth."

Balak then instructs him (in the commentators' somewhat free, interpretative reading of the passage): "Come with me to another spot, from which you will be able to see them [the Jews], but only the extreme part of them and not the whole of them: from there you are to curse them for me."

Again Balaam repeatedly fails to deliver.

The early-19th-century hassidic leader Rabbi Menachem Mendel Morgenshtern of Kotzk derived the following lesson from Balak's instruction: Indeed, by looking only at an extreme, unsavory part of the Jewish people, you will find something to curse, scoundrels and sinners to condemn. But you are not to judge the people by them; you must place these individual wrongdoers in the context of the entire people, and then you will see that the Jewish people as a whole is good. (See *Emmet Mikotz Titzmah*, Netzach Publishers, Bnei Brak, 1961.)

ADMITTEDLY, it is difficult for us mortals to take such a holistic, Eternity's-eye view of one another on a day-to-day basis.

Who characterizes the Zionist left wing? Is it Elud Adiv, formerly of Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz Gan Shmuel, who served 13 years in prison for high treason after joining Omar Naeef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine murder gang in the early 1970s in order to spy for Syria?

Or is it Uri Ilan, also from Gan Shmuel, who in 1954 was captured by the Syrians while on an IDF intelligence mission inside Syria with four other soldiers, and committed suicide in prison for fear that, under torture, he would betray his comrades and his country?

Who characterizes the haredi community?

Is it the few who throw rocks in Jerusalem's Bar-Ilan Street on Shabbat, with the active or tacit approval of other scores or sometimes hundreds of their fellow haredim; the dozens who last Shavuos morning - again with the tacit or active approval of many fellow haredim, but also with the active disapproval of others - jeered, shoved and threw refuse (some say including excrement) at non-Orthodox Jews holding a service at the far edge of the Western Wall Plaza; the thousands of men who neither are in the work force nor render any national service?

Or is it the thousands of haredim who do work, and, moreover, have initiated or volunteered in hundreds of eleemosynary associations extending countless vari-

eties of help - gratis, or at only a nominal charge - to all residents of Israel, Jews and non-Jews, religious and non-religious alike?

After the Shavuos outrage at the Western Wall I described the hooligans as "pseudo-haredim ... wearing the mask of Torah," thereby suggesting that they were not authentically religious Jews at all, let alone haredim.

Ralph Katzenell of Binyamina objects to my implied distinction, saying that the behavior of such people should be judged also by how the communities from which they spring and in which they live respond to them.

He wrote: "These persons act within the spiritual framework of their environment, with the conceptual and lifestyle support of the community of which they are an integral part. The subsequent loud non-condemnation [of the hooligans] provides community legitimization for their approach."

Moreover, "Religions, philosophies, political views should not be judged only by their spiritual content, or even by how their adherents behave [generally], but also by how they behave when they have the power and opportunity to put their beliefs into action."

How do our various Jewish ideological groups - religious and other - rate according to the criteria Katzenell suggests?

How does the Arafatian community rate?

How are the rest of us to react sensibly?

E-mail comments to: [moshe@post.co.il](mailto:moshe@post.co.il). Please include home address.



Parashat Ki Teitzei

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"When you go forth to battle against your enemies, [Ki teitzei lamilhamah] and the Lord your God delivers them into your hands, and you carry them away captive..." (Deut. 21:10)

Even before we reach the second verse of this week's portion of *Ki Teitzei*, we are struck by a return to an earlier subject war - which the text appeared to have left behind.

The laws governing warfare were introduced in last week's Torah portion, *Shofetim*. How to deal with fear and panic; what kinds of exemptions are given and to whom; how to lay siege; if, when and how to take spoils.

First the Torah described various aspects of a war waged in self-defense - known as *milhemet mitzva* or obligatory war. In verse 10 it proceeded to describe aspects of a voluntary war of offense - defense (*milhemet reshut*), emphasizing the necessity of attempting to make peace before sending out the troops.

At the end of last week's portion, the Torah seemingly introduced a new subject: What happens when you find a corpse in a field between two cities, and the murderer is unknown. The Bible provides that the judges of the highest court determine the city closest to the corpse, and that the elders of that city break the neck of a heifer as a sacrifice, which may be brought to "a rough valley, which may neither be plowed nor sown..." (Deut. 21:5)

Rashi explains that a heifer which never had offspring is brought to a site which never produced fruit to atone for the lost life of a person who was denied the opportunity to derive maximum benefit from his own fruits.

Upon reflection, concluding the portion of *Shofetim* with this passage is understandable, since the portion opened with the appointment of judges and officers. But why does the first verse of this week's portion (*Ki Teitzei*) return to the question of war?

thus creating the vast empires we still remember. War was lauded, praised. It is not by accident that "Of arms and strength do I sing," are the opening words of Virgil's *Aeneid*.

The law of the heifer, appearing in the middle of the laws of war, provides a vastly different perspective on values in general and on the value of every human life in particular. All too often the spectacle of battle, the transformation of men into warriors, results in a devaluation of life itself.

The charge of the ancient as well as the modern warrior essentially made him indifferent to death; if he concentrated on the biographies of each enemy, he might have found it impossible to play the part of the fearless soldier. It is far easier to destroy a faceless enemy whose essential humanity is temporarily forgotten.

The Torah is disgusted by this phenomenon. The Israelites must learn to be sensitive to individual life even in the midst of a war. Every corpse has an address. Hence between two discussions of battle, the Almighty turns to the loneliest figure of all - the corpse with no address - and not only demands that we pay attention to this body, but that the elders of the city - the heart and the mind of the Jewish community - accept responsibility and atone for the loss. We dare not let ourselves become inured to human suffering; the Jewish people must never take a death casually, whether in war or peace.

Earlier in the portion of *Re'eh*, the Ohr Hachayim comments on God's promise to the Jewish people to have compassion on us when we fulfill the commandment to destroy a completely idolatrous city. He sees it as a Divine guarantee that the Jews will remain a people with sensitivity even when they are commanded to take human lives. Even though a mass killing, such as the destruction of an idolatrous city, could foist a cruel blood-lust upon the Israelites, we must pray that the Almighty grant that we never lose our fundamental compassion.

Tragically, we are living in an age in which scientific "progress" has made it possible for thousands and even millions to be destroyed in seconds. Mass media such as CNN allow us to view dozens of corpses almost every day. We even refer to the target of a terrorist attack or a military invasion as a casualty, but there is nothing casual about a corpse!

The entire Jewish world went into mourning and Haim Nahman Bialik composed his dirge "The City of Slaughter" after the Kishinev pogrom took less than 40 Jewish lives; yet the number six million now rolls off our tongues rather easily, even casually. My respected colleague and fellow Efrat resident, Yisrael Pivko, wrote that it would take six months - morning, noon and night - merely to count from one to 6,000,000.

It is crucial that we remember the lesson of the broken-necked heifer, especially in the midst of war. Sometimes war is necessary in order to protect the world, and oneself, from evil. But we dare not forget that each human life is of ultimate and absolute value.

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## IRAN

Continued from Page 1

From there, he would obtain an end-user permit from "a European government," but the equipment would be sent to Tehran, Iran is not mentioned in the suit, but the details in the suit match those of a sales contract obtained by the Post.

Avi Richtman, an attorney who represented Manbar in the Elbit suit, said many other Israeli companies approached Manbar for the sale of their equipment to Iran. He said the list included Rabinex, which in 1991-2 sold special fire-retardant clothing to Tehran.

In 1992, Richtman said, Manbar sold trucks he bought from the Israel Air Force to Iran. Manbar, he said, also sold filters for gas masks manufactured by Shalom. A major deal was negotiated between El-Op Electro-Optics Industries and Iran for the upgrade of Polish tanks with El-Op fire control equipment. The deal, however, was not consummated.

"The minute the Israeli companies knew that Nahum was dealing with Iran, many of them turned to him," Richtman said, adding that

in 1990 Soltan offered to sell Iran what he described as a "huge amount" of mortar bombs. The Iranians, however, rejected the offer.

While some defense sources have confirmed details, the spokesmen of the companies involved deny the allegations. "We have never had any deals or any negotiations with Iran, and this includes the tank deal," said El-Op spokeswoman Aviva Haleva. "It is fabricated."

A Soltan executive said the story was incorrect. Shalom CEO Ram Baharad said, "It could be that we had ties with Nahum Manbar. But we haven't sold to Iran since around 1979. We had business with Iran during the rule of the shah."

The Defense Ministry declined to comment, despite repeated requests.

Manbar was arrested at Ben-Gurion Airport on March 27 when he arrived on a flight from Rome. An indictment submitted against Manbar on May 5 charged him with aiding the enemy in time of war. His trial began June 3 and next week the prosecution's major witness is expected to testify.

## MISSILE

Continued from Page 1

Albright was apprised of the existential dangers to Israel posed by this prospect during a 90-minute meeting with Netanyahu, which was also attended by Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and senior aides.

Russia's transfer of missile know-how to Iran was termed a powerful technological program which entails long-term Russo-Iranian cooperation, as a result of which the Tehran regime will have an enormous arsenal and the capability to manufacture missiles capable of carrying biological, chemical, or nuclear warheads within the next two-and-a-half years, the sources said.

Albright was reminded of the "tragic mistake" made in the 1930s when the West failed to recognize the peril to mankind posed by Nazi Germany.

Iran's military ambitions include acquisition of the means to wage conventional as well as

unconventional warfare, she was told.

Netanyahu raised the specter of the Iran possessing ICBMs and other offensive rocket capabilities during his recent trip to the Far East. He cited the commercially-motivated sales of raw materials and sophisticated industrial equipment to Iran during his talks with Japanese and Korean officials and business executives.

While in Seoul, he was given up-to-date information about North Korea's exports of surface-to-surface missiles to Iran, and while at Beijing airport, he elicited a pledge from a Deputy Prime Minister Li Lan Chin not to help the Iranians construct a nuclear reactor.

Experts believe Russia's opening to Iran is its way of retaliating for the eastward expansion of NATO, as well as an opportunity to reap export revenues. By building up Iran's military power and making it dependent on Moscow, the Russians could extend their strategic reach into the Persian Gulf, which they have continually sought since the czarist era.

## KIDNAPED

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu telephoned Schwartz's wife yesterday and assured her the security forces are doing everything possible to find her husband.

Hundreds of volunteers, including relatives and yeshiva students, joined Schwartz's four children, who had been assisting in the search since Wednesday afternoon. They streamed by the busload to the search headquarters at the Border Police base at Yad Mordechai.

"I have never seen so many volunteers," said Ben-Hamo. "They were a great help and I hope they will return again tomorrow."

On Wednesday afternoon, Schwartz had gone with his son, Ronnie, to Ashkelon Cemetery to visit his father's grave. The two parted around 3 p.m., with Ronnie returning to his home in Efrat and his father intending to drive home to Bnei Brak.

"We talked for several minutes and my father told me he would probably take a soldier on the trip

home, so he wouldn't be bored. About an hour later police found his car."

Police theorized that, instead of picking up an IDF soldier, he might have given a ride to terror-

ists wearing army uniforms. "Dad always told me to be optimistic and I'm trying to go on that way," said his son, Ariel, last night.

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## FED UP

Continued from Page 7

But Nick Rahall, a Democratic congressman from West Virginia, pronounces himself disgusted by the whole exercise. While he supports the peace process, Rahall casts equal blame for its disintegration on "extremists on both sides - Hamas and right-wing settlers." And he mocks the reactions of his colleagues as being "1,000 miles ahead of the Israeli government in trying to prejudice" the outcome of negotiations.

"This political pandering and Palestinian-bashing rhetoric that has come out of Congress in recent months is nauseating," Rahall says.

There was in fact a House resolution passed last Friday to halt aid to the PA. While not having the weight of law, it does send a "devastating signal" to Palestinians and "takes away the objectivity of the US [as] an honest [broker] in the negotiations," maintains Rahall.

Feinstein, a Democrat, still has faith in the peace process. Her credentials as a supporter of the process are unassailable. She successfully took up the administration's campaign two years ago to weaken the House and Senate bills ordering the US to move its embassy to Jerusalem because she saw it as a provocation.

But now, following the Ben-Yehuda Street bombing, she says she's had enough.

"This one, for some reason, becomes almost like the straw that breaks the camel's back. And I think when it came following Yasser Arafat's embrace of Hamas' leaders... things that people in public office do

become symbolic gestures. And these symbolic gestures send signals."

"I thought that Yasser Arafat wanted peace, [but] I am becoming more and more convinced that the chairman may not. And that disturbs me very much, because you can't negotiate unless both [sides] want peace."

"Now I'm the first one to say that I think there have been provocations, whether it's the [Western Wall] tunnel opening or Har Homa - things that could have been done differently. But I do not see the signals being sent out by the Palestinian leadership in a way that's definitive and positive and followed up with action, that have convinced me that Arafat isn't trying to carry water on both shoulders. When it comes to terror, I don't believe you can do that...."

"I think this is an Israeli issue, and Israelis have to speak for themselves," Feinstein says. "But I, for one, as a US Senator on the Foreign Relations Committee, will not vote for renewal of MEPPA until I see some real progress made against terrorist organizations. And that includes rooting out their infrastructure, it includes arresting and imprisoning their leaders, their activists."

Asked whether cutting off MEPPA or financial assistance would hurt the Palestinian people, Feinstein is unapologetic.

"The Palestinian people also have to make up their minds whether they want peace and are willing to take a stand," she says.

"There has to be a desire for peace on both sides. We know that terrorism is aimed at destroying peace; therefore, I think the time has come when the Palestinian people really have to indicate that they want peace."

## TERROR

Continued from Page 10

"Seldom were the promises kept, the favors reciprocated or the deals honored. The trail is littered with deceit, treachery, betrayal and the murder of an American ambassador and his deputy in the Sudan," they wrote.

Still, in the aftermath of Oslo, Israel tended to look on the bright side. Rabin would demand that Arafat arrest Islamic militants, but often Arafat would limit his counterterrorism efforts to trying to persuade Hamas leaders to stop the attacks.

Israeli leaders were patient. When Arafat failed to stop Hamas attacks in 1994 and 1995, leaders said he lacked control and was inexperienced at fighting terrorism.

After Arafat's election as president in 1996, most Israeli officials felt he had attained the clout he needed to fight Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The height of security cooperation was in April 1996. Arafat was stunned by fierce Israeli and American reaction to a wave of suicide bombings in February and March in Israel. He understood that the Oslo process could collapse under the weight of another attack and ordered his security deputies to cooperate with Israel and put a halt to attacks staged from PA-controlled areas.

There were mass arrests of Hamas, Jihad and Popular Front activists, driving the terrorists underground. For about three months, the security relationship was close to idyllic. PA security chiefs would relay information to the Israelis on Islamic militant detainees.

A PA security source says that

his colleagues learned in those few weeks the extent of the Islamic threat to Arafat.

The General Security Service regional commander in the Gaza Strip was in daily contact with Mohammed Dahlan, head of the PA's Preventive Security Apparatus. The GSS regional commander in the Jerusalem district had the same relationship with Jibril Rajoub, head of the PSA in the West Bank. GSS chief Ami Ayalon met frequently with Amin Hindi, head of PA General Intelligence Services in Gaza.

But the tight cooperation didn't last long. By June, Binyamin Netanyahu was elected prime minister, and international and US pressure on Arafat to maintain an intensive security relationship with Israel began to lift. At the same time, Islamic fundamentalists in Gaza and abroad urged Arafat to free detainees.

By September, Arafat was emptying PA prisons. Hamas and Jihad militants were recruited by PA security agencies, which seemed to guarantee these organizations that their infrastructure wouldn't be harmed.

Israeli security sources say that terrorist ringleaders roam Gaza freely today. They list the suspects as Abd Sitti, said to be a senior member of Hamas's military wing and aide to bombmaker Mohammed Deif; Imad Akei, believed to be behind a spate of bombings in 1994 and 1995, and Ibrahim Kawagieh, suspected of involvement in the January 1995 Beit Lid bombing and freed this year. There is also Nabil Salam Shrihi, a Jihad member, suspected of involvement in the April 1995 bombing in Kfar Darom, in which seven Israelis and a US citizen were killed.

At the PA dialogue with opposition groups last month, Dahlan

made it clear that these Hamas and Jihad ringleaders and their supporters should be thankful to Arafat. "We are protecting a sizeable portion of Hamas people who were wanted by Israel on political charges," he said.

Privately, some PA security sources say real cooperation with Israel on counterterrorism is out of reach. First, there is a question of goals. Arafat's security agencies give priority to keeping his regime in control. Law enforcement for its own sake is not a priority.

Second, there is little if any trust between Israeli and PA security officials. The PA is convinced that Israel is tapping its telephones and recruiting officials as spies. Israel says it has evidence that Dahlan and Rajoub are also recruiting Israeli informers and targeting Israeli intelligence services.

Israel has learned lessons from the Arafat experience. First, it has reorganized intelligence efforts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The General Security Services still operate in these areas. In addition, IDF intelligence has been given a much greater role. A recent decision approved by Netanyahu gives IDF intelligence the authority to issue attack alerts.

No longer do the GSS and IDF have to argue over the accuracy of intelligence before a warning is put out.

Intelligence sources say the investigation of the Jerusalem suicide bombings has benefited from these changes. They say the joint GSS-police investigation has produced significant results toward identifying the suicide bombers, believed to be Hamas militants who lived in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

The question is whether better intelligence could prevent what both Israeli and Palestinian security sources warn is an approaching storm. Arafat, they say, is finding it increasingly difficult to buy support. Funding from Israel and the international community has decreased sharply, and Arafat is looking for new sources. They have appealed to longtime traditional Arab societies in eastern Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources even warn that Arafat could be pushed to the point of initiating violence with Israel unless his local stature picks up in the next few months.

"The situation is so terrible for Arafat," a Palestinian analyst says. "He has more and more problems with Israel and with Palestinians. He is under so much pressure that he is looking for an explosion to save him."

## GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Reuma Weizman showed courage and solidarity sitting outside the Chagall coffee shop on Ben Yehuda Street. (Isaac Harari)

## Tea and sympathy

Last week Reuma Weizman accompanied her husband on visits to those injured and hospitalized after the bomb blast in Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda Mall. This week, in a show of courage and solidarity, she was there in the mall, sitting in the outdoor section of the Chagall coffee shop. Photographer Isaac Harari, who frequently strolls through the mall, caught sight of the president's wife waiting to be served.

WHEN former prime minister Shimon Peres decided to form his Peace Institute, the Mexicans were delighted because global peace is part of their foreign policy. When he went a step further and invited former Mexican president Miguel de la Madrid to join his international advisory board, which includes such notables as Henry Kissinger and Mikhail Gorbachev, the Mexicans were even more delighted. Mexican ambassador Jorge Alberto Lozoya decided that the least he could do was host a reception in Peres's honor at his palatial Kfar Shmaryahu residence.

Peres was in a buoyant mood, having just returned from Italy, where he signed an agreement with pasta manufacturing giant Barilla to "use wheat produced by the Egyptians, the Palestinians, and the Israelis." Barilla has traditionally imported most of its protein-rich wheat from the US, but hearing of the peace project it decided, according to Peres, to "produce wheat and peace." As another example of regional cooperation, Peres mentioned a project in which eight European cities, eight Israeli cities and eight PA-controlled cities will work together to improve cultural and social welfare programs.

DIPLOMATS, academics, and representatives of the business community gathered at Lozoya's home to salute Peres and his vision. Among them were Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, Ecuadorian ambassador Paulina Garcia de Larrea, Philippines ambassador Rosalinda de Perio-Santos, British ambassador David Manning and Brazilian ambassador Paulo Pinto Assumpcao. Also present were Jordanian ambassador Omar Rifai, Dominican ambassador Alfonso Lockward and Tel Aviv University professors Yoram Dinstein and Itamar Rabinovich, as well as Koor CEO Benny Geon, chairman of the Israel-Latin America Chamber of Commerce Felix Kiper, and former Israeli ambassador to Mexico Shimon Arad. After Peres, the person who drew the most attention was Peres's driver Menachem Damti, who used to be Yitzhak Rabin's driver. It was Damti who drove Rabin to the hospital the night he was assassinated.

US-BORN attorney Stephen Adler is about to be sworn in as president of the National Labor Court, making him the highest-ranking civil servant in Israel from an English-speaking country. Back in 1968, friends warned Adler against making aliyah because "there would be no work for immigrant lawyers in Israel." But within a week of his arrival he had two job offers. With a background in labor law, Adler was appointed director of research at the newly formed Labor Court. In 1975 he became one of the youngest judges in the regional labor court, moving on to become deputy president in the national court.

Known as an anti-establishment judge, Adler recalls that even as a boy he took an interest in the plight of the workers. "I always felt the underdog should be helped," he says. "I joined in Martin Luther King's marches. I felt everyone should have rights." Although he has made it, Adler knows it's difficult for lawyers from abroad to be absorbed here because of the language barrier. Still, he'd like to see more new immigrant lawyers coming to this country. "This is a very exciting time in Israel's legal system," he says. "A new constitution is being developed, and basic rights are being defined."

ON THE international scene, CNN's much-married Larry King, 63, has just married Mormon singer Shawn Southwick, 37. King, who has strong connections to the Aish HaTorah yeshiva movement which reaches out to unaffiliated and non-committed Jews, has a penchant for marrying non-Jewish women.

NOT ALL gentlemen prefer blondes. But one for whom the myth definitely does apply is millionaire hotelier, casino owner, and property developer Donald Trump. His ex-wife, soon-to-be ex-wife, and could-be next wife are all variations on the same golden-haired theme.

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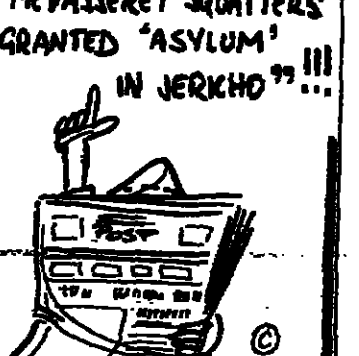


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by DOSH

THAT'S THE ONE: "MEVASSERET SQUATTERS GRANTED 'ASYLUM'!!!"



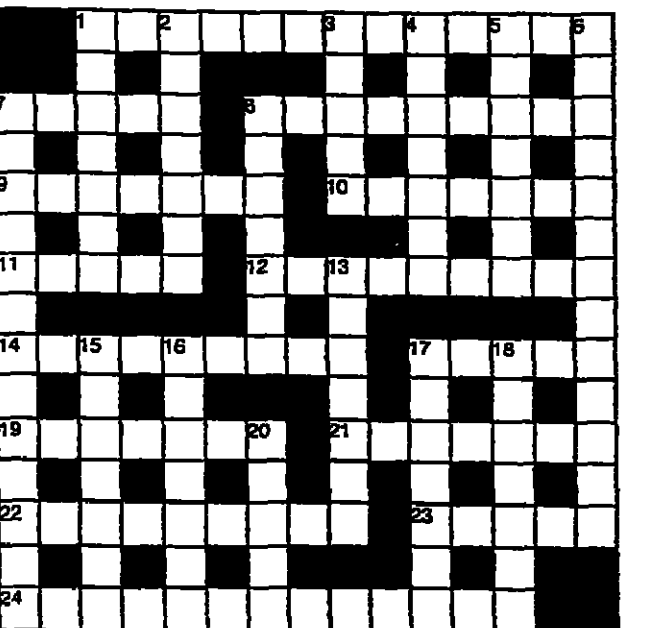
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

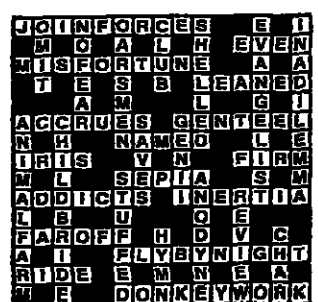
- 1 Remove all the cards and prepare for action (5,3,5)
- 7 A little tot having a play (5)
- 8 He shows the way to a raving lunatic (9)
- 9 Almost pick a craft with no painter (7)
- 10 Capital atmosphere old boy found in Ulster (7)
- 11 Stared hard, having gone in front by own goal initially (5)
- 12 Application by coach (9)
- 14 Original model had unsatisfactory cheap tyre (8)
- 17 Fish in the Ebro—a challenge (5)
- 19 Disease—one will shortly go to head (7)

## DOWN

- 21 Where journalist works, in theory (2,5)
- 22 Being converted delivered an advantage (4-5)
- 23 I criticize severely, being angry (5)
- 24 Receive communication, and really understand (3,3,7)
- 1 Part of church has luck with money (7)
- 2 Pleased about having passed (7)
- 3 Possess name of port (5)
- 4 Approving of excavation (7)
- 5 Trim upland and fell (3,4)



## SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 1. Beat, 3. Instruct, 9. Under, 10. Marquette, 11. Dip, 13. Franchise, 14. Evince, 16. Volley, 18. Pronounce, 20. Yet, 23. Scorpio, 23. Swift, 25. Describe, 26. Byre.  
DOWN: 1. Round, 2. End, 4. Number, 5. Tornade, 6. Unusually, 7. Therapy, 8. Crop, 12. Polynesian, 14. Exposed, 15. Cropper, 17. Entomb, 18. Easy, 21. Title, 24. Try.

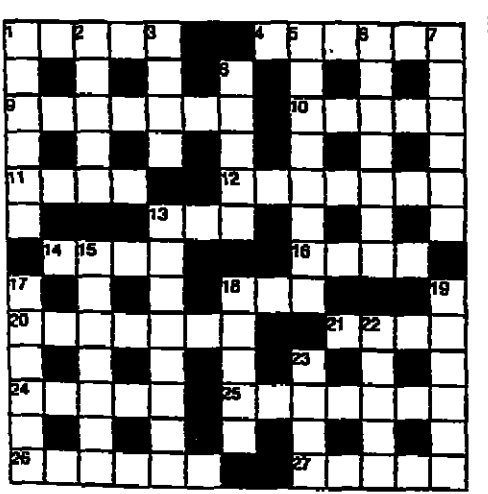
## QUICK CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

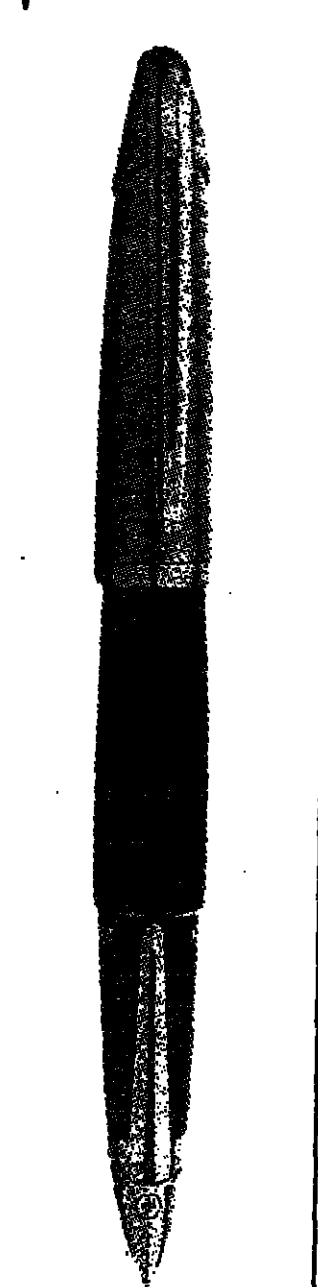
- 1 Night (5)
- 4 eg Cockroach (6)
- 9 Regard (7)
- 10 Higher in rank (5)
- 11 Trial (4)
- 12 Waterfall (7)
- 13 Animal (3)
- 14 Island (4)
- 16 Outdoor function (4)
- 18 Oriental sauce (3)
- 20 Drip (7)
- 21 Continent (4)
- 24 Funny bone (5)
- 25 Ground (7)
- 26 Long step (6)
- 27 Type of stage (5)

## DOWN

- 1 Explodes (6)
- 2 Beasts of burden (5)
- 3 Leg joint (4)
- 5 Liquidize (8)
- 6 Next above lower mast (7)
- 7 Merited (6)
- 8 Pile of hay (5)
- 13 Faded (8)
- 15 Dribble (7)
- 17 Snakes (6)
- 18 Affirm (5)
- 19 A great gun (6)
- 22 Step (5)
- 23 Song (4)



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DWELLINGS

Outside Israel

HOLIDAY EXCHANGE

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DWELLINGS

Jerusalem Area

EXCHANGE

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RENTALS

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GERMAN COLONY (ELROY): huge pent-house, 5 + dining room, terraces, view. T.A.C. Tel. 02-583-1764.

GIVAT MORDECHAI, 3 rooms, long term, 1st floor, elevator, telephone. Tel. 02-581-2882 (home), 02-523-8046 (work).

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RAMAT ESHKOL, FURNISHED, 2 rooms, large kitchen, porch, garden, separate entrance. Tel. 02-581-9245.

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NEVE ZEDEK, 2, renovated, immediate. \$620. 2 large decorated by artist. \$1000. EURO AMERICAN. Tel. 052-573-780, 09-584-2970.

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## DWELLINGS

## Dan Region

## RENTALS

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## DWELLINGS

## Southern Coast

## RENTALS

## ASHKELON, ESHKOLET-PAZ, SEASIDE

luxurious villa, 6 + garden. Tel. 03-522-9838, 03-522-9720.

## DWELLINGS

## Sharon Area

## RENTALS

HERZLIYA PITUAH, SPACIOUS, 5, furnished, unfurnished, garden, sea view, private. Tel. 09-555-7930 (NS).

HERZLIYA, CLOSE TO sea, new house, 7 rooms + swimming pool, 800 sq.m. plot. Tel. 09-558-9204.

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\* 3 room, lift, furnished, imm.

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\* 5 room, near Golan Cir., balcony, storage room. \$800

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KFAR SHMAYAHU, NEW villa, quiet area-400 sq.m. built, 1 dunam plot + swimming pool. Tel. 09-558-9204.

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SEAFRONT PENTHOUSE 190 M. + terrace, \$650,000, EURO AMERICAN. Tel. 052-443-772, 09-884-2970.

SEAFRONT STUDIO, + terrace in hotel, \$110,000, EURO AMERICAN. Tel. 052-443-772, 09-884-2970.

ZICHRON YAAKOV, LOVELY spacious house, secluded gardens, sea view, great location. Tel. 052-569-624.

## DWELLINGS

## Haifa and North

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## SALES

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DENYA (UPPER) LUXURIOUS one-family home, spacious & fully invested. CITACO LTD. Tel. 04-837-1275.

ZICHRON YAAKOV, NEVE HaBaron, 706 sq.m. plot, 254 sq.m. built, 7 rooms, new, pool. Tel. 06-639-2485, 050-533-946.

## DWELLINGS

## Eilat and South

## HOLIDAY RENTALS

EILAT, LUXURY FURNISHED studio apartment, balcony, private pool. Tel. (09) 771-5833.

## HOLIDAY SALES

FOR SALE - HOLIDAY unit, week 35 (end of August) in Club Hotel in Eilat. Tel. 02-635-4247.

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HOLIDAY UNIT in Club Hotel Eilat, end of December, including RCI. Tel. 04-823-4030.

## REALTY

## Jerusalem Area

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## REALTY

## Tel Aviv

## PLOTS

BE'ER YAAKOV, LARGE plots, private, for immediate sale to groups of private. Tel. 03-628-8080.

## BUSINESS OFFERS

## Jerusalem

## BUSINESS PREMISES

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## SERVICES

## Jerusalem

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## SITUATIONS VACANT

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AU PAIR, HOUSEKEEPING + childcare, live-in, experience, references, Ramat Aviv Gimmel. Tel. 03-641-5204, 03-642-6621.

SEEKING AU PAIR for 4 month old twins for weekdays - Friday 1200 - Sunday morning. Tel. 09-526-7253.

EXCELLENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES! For Au pairs, domestic help, childcare and care giving for elderly. Great conditions. Salary, live-in/out, country wide. Tel. 03-558-5767, 052-951-054.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Outside Israel

STAR AU PAIR International. The international agency for au pairs, nannies and housekeepers has immediate jobs available in America and Israel. 052-422002, 03-6201195

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Jerusalem

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DENTAL OFFICE seeks experienced Hebrew speaking secretary, 5 times/week, 11 am - 7 pm. Tel. 02-561-2001 (Miri).

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## HOUSEHOLD HELP

CHILD CARE & LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING needed for large American family in Jerusalem. 13:00 - 20:30 weekdays. Must work weekends. Tel. 03-613-3330.

URGENTLY REQUIRED FILIPINA care giver, live in/out, Visa provided. Tel. 02-622-3044.

AFTERNOON HELP FOR family w/3 children in Talpit. English speaker preferred. References required. Tel. 02-673-1150.

AU PAIR, LIVE-IN, Moshe Bar Giora, immediate, references. Tel. 02-533-5147, 052-678-580.

CAREGIVER FOR ELDERLY woman in Eilat + light housekeeping, some Hebrew. Tel. 02-693-3063 (NS).

EXPERIENCED LIGHT CAREGIVER needed. Live-in/out. Recommendations. Chaim Vetrov. Tel. 02-622-1422.

HOUSE CLEANER, 3 X weekly, mornings, Sunday, Wednesday, Friday. Tel. 02-642-7494.

LIVE-IN NANNY, NEEDED to take care of two cute kids. Call Ronit. Tel. 050-679-290.

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER FOR school-girl household. References + experience. Tel. 02-534-3388.

SEEKING WOMAN to take care of elderly man + housework. Live-in. Tel. 02-673-3456, 02-671-4352.

SEEKING PERSON for housekeeping + part-time childcare. Tel. 02-625-9180.

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EXPERIENCED FULL TIME English secretary needed immediately. Tel. 02-624-5881.

PUBLIC INSTITUTION seeks energetic secretary to take care of delegates + word. Tel. 02-625-5002.

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## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Tel Aviv

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

AU PAIR, EXPERIENCE with twins - 7 months, references, part time, live-in/out. Tel. 03-642-1704.

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IMMEDIATE AU-PAIR JOBS available, friendly, reliable, many South African and all other nationalities (Families), live-in, countrywide. Top conditions + high salary. Wonderful opportunities. 03-619-0423.

RESIDENT HOUSEKEEPER, INCLUDING caring for sick girl. Tel. 03-648-7493 (Sara).

EUROPEAN/ANGLO SAXON, LIVE-OUT, baby care + housekeeping. Sun-Thurs 10:00-6:00 pm. Tel. 03-524-3942, 052-743815.

EXCLUSIVE AU-PAIR AGENCY in North Tel Aviv seeking qualified, intelligent candidates, high salaries. Tel. 050-820-894.

GIVATIM, SEEKING HOUSEKEEPER, for housework + some childcare, live-out, full-time including Fridays. Tel. 03-571-5571 (NS).

HOUSEKEEPER, 5 DAYS, warm family, references necessary. Tel. 03-699-1178, 03-638-6850.

HOUSEKEEPER, CLEANING + IRONING, 4 days/week, mornings (not Friday). Tel. 03-642-0355.

HOUSEKEEPER, OVER 30, references, Au Pair area. Tel. 03-622-6248, 052-588-650.

LIVE-IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMPANION for lovely elderly lady in Tel Aviv, references. Tel. 09-558-4973.

LIVE-IN, WARM FAMILY, visa provided, 26, non-smoker. Tel. Ruth 03-679-1717, 578-2837.

LIVE-IN, CLEANING & CHILDCARE, Good conditions. Tel. 052-569-535, 03-647-1953.

NANNY, 25-30, ENGLISH or French speaking, flexible hours, for newborn, possible in nanny's home. Tel. 03-685-7660.

METAPLET, PLEASANT FAMILY, high salary, live-in / live-out, Good conditions, possible couple. Tel. 03-537-1036.

WANTED - NANNY + light housekeeping, live-out, daytime. Tel. 03-686-4837, 050-400172.

## OFFICE STAFF

SECRETARY / COLLEGE GRAD, with great Windows, Word, Excel skills for dynamic Ramat Gan diamond office. Fax Resume: 03-613-3111.

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST, WORKING HEBREW, 12:00-19:00, Word 6. Tel. (03) 695-6566 (between noon & 4 p.m.).

SECRETARY FOR IMPORT agency, full time, Hebrew + English mother tongue level. Fax CV to 03-561-1691, Tel. 03-561-2895.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Dan Region

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

NEEDED: A LIVE-IN housekeeper in Ramat Eilat. Tel. 03-5344034.

YAVNE, HOUSEKEEPER, LIVE-IN/OUT, 6 days/week, full time. Tel. 08-643-6388, 050-321104.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Sharon Area

## HOUSEHOLD HELP

Wanted A Live-In Nourmaid in Caesarea

For a baby boy (2 months) Must have recommendations

Attractive terms for the successful candidate.

Call: 06-6263693

FILIPINA AU-PAIR, LIVE-IN. Pleasant family, Ra'anana. Good conditions. Tel. 09-774-0283.

RA'ANANA, SEEKING HOUSEKEEPER, for housework + some childcare, live-out, full-time including Fridays. Tel. 05-245-5544 (NS).

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER in Herzliya Pituaah. Tel. 09-556-8340.

LIVE-IN, KFAR SABA area, separate accommodations. Tel. 09-740-9990 (Donna).

RA'ANANA, AU PAIR, live-in, house cleaning, baby, references required. Tel. (09) 771-8782.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## Eilat and South

## AGRICULTURAL

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# Herzliya blows by Ra'anana in hoops opener

By ELI GRONER

The National Basketball League's 1997-98 season had a couple of major surprises in last night's opening round, as Maccabi Ra'anana and Hapoel Jerusalem - two of the league's top three teams last year - both lost at home, to Herzliya and league newcomer Kiryat Motzkin, respectively. The league's other new club, Maccabi Netanya, forced Maccabi Rishon into overtime, before succumbing.

In other action, Maccabi Tel Aviv whipped Givat Shmuel, Hapoel Eilat edged past Maccabi Ramat Gan, and Galil Elyon staved off Hapoel Holon.

Herzliya 95, Ra'anana 82  
Herzliya coach Erez Edelstein took a major risk in the off-season,

signing two young foreigners who had no European experience. The gamble paid dividends last night when Terence Rancher and Darnell Robinson led Herzliya to a surprisingly easy victory.

Rancher's contributions can't be measured purely by his 19 points and eight assists. His deft ball handling and court vision indicate that he will be a tough foe for any of the league's guards.

Meanwhile, Robinson's bulk inside should give league centers something to think about as well. Robinson frustrated last year's MVP, Tomer Steinbauer all night, while leading all scorers with 22.

Herzliya won the game in the opening minutes, when it jumped out to an incredible 33-6 lead. The keys to the sport were excellent ball

movement and shot selection on offense, coupled with smothering, hands-on defense.

The offense was firing on all cylinders with Uri Cohen-Mintz, Amir Muhtari and Lior Arditi playing in full synch with the foreigners. In addition, Muhtari and Arditi rendered Ra'anana's two big guns, Mark Brisker and Paul Thompson, nonexistent, with smothering, in-your-face defense.

In addition, Vicki Revah provided 19 points, off what was supposed to be a weak, inexperienced bench.

Brisker - who managed to score 16 points in the second half when Arditi was on the bench - paced Ra'anana with 21 points.

Other results last night: Kiryat Motzkin 86, Hapoel Jerusalem 67; Kiryat 89, Netanya 86 (OT); Mac Tel Aviv 93, Givat Shmuel 84; Eilat 84, Ramat Gan 80; Galil 83, Holon 73.

## Hap. Jerusalem savoring life at the top

By ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Jerusalem supporters have a very long memory. The ones who are old enough, can still remember when their side was last at the top of the National League standings. It was 21 years ago, in the fourth round of the 1976-77 campaign.

Many of the several thousand supporters who will come to Teddy Stadium this afternoon to cheer on their beloved side have never had the opportunity to experience the heady heights of National League leadership. They weren't even born when Hapoel were the league standard-bearers - albeit for a very short time - back in 1976.

They will savor this afternoon's atmosphere with great emotion as Hapoel take on Maccabi Haifa and they will hope that the league leadership wasn't just an all-too-brief

flash in the pan.

Hapoel have re-written the script for this season's campaign. They were supposed to be the underdogs of this afternoon's match. Maccabi Haifa, who showed great promise as the league began, were supposed to come to the capital wielding a big stick. As it is, all Jerusalem expects Hapoel to deliver the right result.

The supporters in red will be hoping their side can continue to lead the league, while the yellow supporters of archrivals Beitar Jerusalem will be hoping Hapoel's men can subdue the green enemy from the North.

While nobody thinks Hapoel Jerusalem will sustain their leadership for too much longer, the side feels that it can win this afternoon. Coach Yossi Mizrahi has a young, talented group of players, who have jelled well and will be tough oppo-

nents for any side visiting Teddy this season.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches tomorrow unless stated): Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Kiryat Shmona, Kiryat Shmona 18:00; Ironi Rishon v. Beitar Jerusalem, Rishon 17:45; Hapoel Be'er Sheva v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva 16:30; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Ironi Ashdod, Petah Tikva 16:30; Hapoel Ashdod v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Ashdod 16:30; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Herzliya 17:00; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Beitar Yehuda, Beitar Yehuda 18:00; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Maccabi Haifa, Teddy Stadium 19:00.

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Hapoel Jm	4	3	1	0	7	4	10
Hapoel Tel Aviv	4	3	1	0	7	4	10
Ironi Ashdod	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Beitar Yehuda	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Beitar Jm	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Hapoel Pt	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Macc. Herzliya	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Ashdod	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
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